Birds in Wales
Adar yng Nghymru

Welsh Bird Report - 2019 - Adroddiad Adar Cymru

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Welsh Bird Report No. 33: 2019

Edited by Julian Hughes

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Front cover: Cormorant (Peter Howlett). Back cover: Red Kite (Cameron Sharp)

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WELSH BIRD REPORT NO. 33: 2019

Review of the birding year 2019

January often sees the peak in waterbird numbers in Wales, but for many species the counts have been progressively smaller in recent years. The Wetland Bird Survey index for Goldeneye, for example, reached its lowest point since 1974/75 and that for Red-breasted Merganser was the lowest since 1972/73. The Welsh index for Coot has fallen by 46% since 2001/02 and for Pintail by 67% since 2005/06, and after years of increase, the index for Tufted Duck has taken a marked dip in the last five years too. At a time when volunteer coverage of birds on our wetlands is perhaps the best it has ever been, it has never been more important to be monitoring these changes.

If anything, wintering waders are in an even more parlous state, with a 24% decline in Oystercatcher numbers in just seven years, while the index for Bar-tailed Godwit is 86% below its peak. Scaup, Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter have all become harder to find off the Welsh coast in recent years, but an aerial survey in February of Common Scoters in the Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area found a phenomenal 74,000 birds in the Welsh sector alone, far more than have ever been previously estimated.

With no Arctic blast this year, both winter periods were poor for sightings of Iceland Gull and Glaucous Gull, there were no Lapland Buntings and only two Snow Buntings in the whole country. There were also fewer records of Hooded Crows, although the annual total was similar as a result of a remarkable flock of 35 at RSPB South Stack, Anglesey, in February, the largest ever recorded in Wales. Spring came early for some migrants, with February records of Swallow in four counties and of Sand Martin in six counties. Dunnock is not a species that usually gets a mention in this annual round-up, so mention should perhaps be made of one ringed in Essex in January 2018 that was recaught at a garden centre on the North Wales coast in April 2019.

Breeding season records suggest that there was a partial recovery for small-bodied species, such as Cetti's Warbler, Wren and Long-tailed Tit, hit by March 2018's 'Beast from the East'. The small Welsh population of Dartford Warbler, however, took a bigger knock, and now only just clings on in North Wales. Stonechat, which had also shown a dip in 2018, achieved a record high Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) index in 2019. The BBS also showed new population highs (since 1994) for Blackcap, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Siskin, Goldfinch and House Sparrow, the last of these species in contrast to declines recorded across much of England. Tree Sparrow has done rather better, albeit from a low base, in England in the last decade, and bird recorders in Wales suggest that it may be showing some signs of slow recovery in its remaining pockets in Wales, such as Radnorshire and Carmarthenshire. Encouragingly, the BBS index for Cuckoo has remained stable, and most upland counties at least reported reasonable numbers.

Stonechat (Cameron Sharp)

Some species, however, continued their worrying downward trend. The BBS indices for Swift, House Martin and Wheatear hit new lows, but there may just be a sign that the huge decline in Starlings is levelling out. Willow Warbler, a species disappearing from lowland areas of South Wales, had a slightly better year and Green Woodpecker, which has shown a marked eastward shift in recent years, continued its retreat away from North Wales. Of the

1995-2018 BBS change (58 species)

2018-19 BBS change (60 species)

Decline >50%	
Decline >25% and <50%	
Decline <25%	
	Increase <25%
	Increase >25% and <50%
	Increase >50%

58 species for which a long-term trend can be generated by the BBS, 27 declined both over 23 years (one more species than in the trend to 2018) and over one year (10 species less than in 2017-18). Divergent trends are emerging for members of the corvid family: the BBS index for Jay was the highest yet (+52% since 1995) but Magpie (-43%) and Rook (-58%) hit new lows, although colony surveys in South Wales indicated a small increase in the latter species compared to the previous year.

Many terrestrial species are, however, too scarce to be monitored by the BBS. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was recorded at just 14 sites in the breeding season, with none in Gwent or East Glamorgan, and the first year of a national Willow Tit survey enabled a provisional population estimate to be made for Wales. The number of Little Egret nests increased on 2018, although remained below the high of 2016. There were just four records of Grey Partridge in 2019, a species that stands on the brink of extinction in Wales. The inland Chough population has been in marked decline at inland sites in the last 20 years, quantified for the first time by a new analysis that also shows the coastal population is less robust as it might appear. The weather was more favourable than in 2018, despite Storm Hannah at the end of April that probably caused some Chough nests to fail. Settled drier weather in June helped breeding success, with a record number of Choughs fledged in Pembrokeshire and the highest nest productivity in North and mid-Wales since 2013. A colour-ringed Chough in Ceredigion set a new British longevity record, at just over 23 years.

Crane once again bred on the Gwent Levels, following the successful reintroduction to Somerset, and 49 pairs of Avocets at Newport Wetlands is the highest yet. The two most surprising developments for breeding birds were both on Anglesey. A record of Wales' ninth Savi's Warbler, found in June at the RSPB's Cors Ddyga reserve, went on to find a mate and breeding was confirmed by late July – see page 209 for more details. Equally surprising was the discovery of up to 200 adult Gannets displaying among auks on Ynys Badrig, off the north coast of the island. Although no nesting is thought to have occurred, the establishment of new colonies elsewhere has been preceded by seasonal site occupation.

It was, otherwise, a mixed year for breeding seabirds. There was a significant increase in the number of Cormorants nesting at some colonies counted in North Wales and a nest in Montgomeryshire is believed to be the first inland nesting record in Wales. The number of Kittiwakes increased at several colonies compared to 2018, but the long-term trend remains strongly downward. Black-headed Gulls are not doing well as a breeding species in Wales, except on the north coast, with many inland colonies diminished or lost. A colour-ringed Puffin on Skomer set a new British longevity record, being at least 45 years old.

The number of Common Tern nests was, overall, well up at the four Welsh colonies and two pairs of Roseate Terns fledged young on The Skerries, Anglesey. The number of Arctic Terns was slightly down but it was a record year for the number of young fledged at the only Little Tern colony, at Gronant in Flintshire. Among the Gronant birds was yellow-ringed ZBA, which at 26 years old became the oldest Little Tern ever recorded in Britain & Ireland. Three pairs of Little Tern also nested along the coast at RSPB Point of Ayr nature reserve.

Breeding waders continue to face a struggle. There was an increased number of reports of Curlew territories, which perhaps reflects the growth in awareness of their plight. However, re-surveys in core

areas show continued losses. There was an increase in the number of sites reporting breeding Lapwings, and monitored populations had a productive year but almost all relied on fencing out of mammalian predators. Redshanks too depend on conservation management, primarily by the RSPB at a handful of sites, but there was some hope from other saltmarshes in Meirionnydd.

Five pairs of Ospreys once again nested in Wales and Marsh Harriers maintained their foothold in Gwent and Anglesey, while a nest at Kenfig NNR was the first ever in Glamorgan. Kenfig itself faced considerable uncertainty as the local authority confirmed that it would not renew its lease with the Kenfig Corporation Trust. There were very few records of nesting Long-eared Owls, despite concerted survey effort in northwest Wales in late winter, and few Short-eared Owls too. Numbers of Hobby continued to increase, and nesting was confirmed in Ceredigion for the first time.

Late summer has become the time to watch for aggegrations of Mediterranean Gulls, and although not a record count, 620 at Llanrhystud, Ceredigion, in August was one of the highest ever. Cardiff Bay, East Glamorgan, hosted 278 Mute Swans in August, the largest site count ever in Wales. The increase in sightings of scarce herons has been one of the phenomena of the last two decades. Eleven Great White Egrets on the Dee estuary, Flintshire, in August was a new record count for Wales, while 11 Spoonbills at Penclacwydd, Carmarthenshire, in September equalled the highest previously recorded. The number of new Cattle Egrets found was only half the total of 2018, however. It was a poor summer/autumn for seawatchers, with few Balearic and Sooty Shearwaters and no Little Auks. Autumn wader passage was nothing special, with modest numbers of Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers, and reasonable numbers of Wood Sandpipers but nothing compared to the influx farther east. The lack of northeasterly winds in autumn also resulted in very few Yellow-browed Warblers and no records of Pallas's Warbler.

Two species new to the Welsh List were seen in the last few days of September, both in the northwest: an Eastern Yellow Wagtail at Cemlyn on Anglesey and Buff-bellied Pipit on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire. Among the other notable rarities during the year were the first Laughing Gull for a decade, the first Red-eyed Vireo since 2001, the second ever Western Orphean Warbler and the third Yellow-rumped Warbler.

The year finished with an unsettled autumn and early winter. Some migrants stayed late – there were December records of Swallow from five counties – and winter passerine arrival was unremarkable, although a Chaffinch caught in Flintshire in November had been ringed the previous month in Kaliningrad in the eastern Baltic. There were even fewer migratory wildfowl than in the first winter period. Only three sites held more than 10 Goldeneyes, for example, and no Bewick's Swans were recorded anywhere. Only 10 sites held more than 20 Pochards at some point during the year, and the species barely registered in some county reports – there were just three in Ceredigion, for example. Non-native and naturalised geese are most successful: Wales recorded its highest ever total of Egyptian Geese in 2019 and 608 Barnacle Geese on the Dyfi estuary was the largest flock in the modern era. Of 47 species of geese, swans, ducks, rails, divers, grebes and waders monitored via the Wetland Bird Survey, 21 have declined since 1994/95 and 33 in just the year since 2017/18.

1994/95-2018/19 WeBS change (47 species)

2017/18-2018/19 WeBS change (47 species)

Decline >50%	Increase <25%
Decline >25% and <50%	Increase >25% and <50%
Decline <25%	Increase >50%

Great White Egret (Bob Garrett)

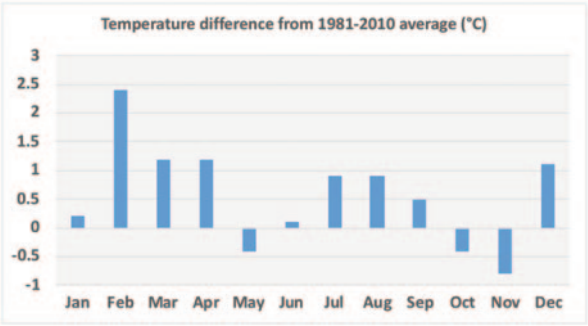
One of the birding incidents that caught the attention of the media and the wider public was the mass death of 225 Starlings on a quiet country lane on Anglesey in December, which included a bird that had been ringed in Lithuania in June 2015. While speculation and conspiracy theories were aired, research showed that this phenomenon has been recorded across the world, including at nearby Llyn Llywenan in November 1993. Post-mortem examinations of 41 of the dead birds showed severe trauma as a result of hitting the tarmac, perhaps a result of being spooked from a roost at dusk.

Weather summary for Wales in 2019

This summary is based on the Met. Office monthly summaries for Wales at **metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/summaries/index** and, for river flows, the National Hydrological Monitoring Programme at **nrfa.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk**. Where comparisons are made to an average, these refer to the period 1981-2010.

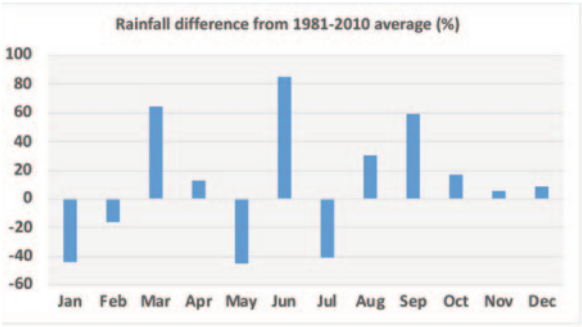
2019 was warmer than average for the UK, although slightly less so than 2018 and 2017. February was notably warm, the second warmest February in a series since 1910, and March, April and December were also a degree or more warmer than average in Wales. However, the two key breeding season months were cooler (May) and wetter (June) than average. It was a rather wet year, with above average rainfall across most of Wales, although it was lower than typical on Anglesey. The provisional UK mean temperature for 2019 was 9.4°C, which is 0.6°C above the long-term average, making it the 11th warmest year in a series from 1910. All of the top 10 warmest years in this series have occurred since 2000.

The first half of **January** was cloudy and mild, with strong winds mid-month, gusting to 71 mph at Capel Curig, Caernarfonshire, early on the 14th, but colder in the second half, with widespread snow over high ground at the end of the month. The overnight temperature fell to -9.8°C at St Harmon, Radnorshire (the coldest of the winter), there was 5cm of snow at Sennybridge, Breconshire, on the 31st, and the daytime temperature at Lake Vyrnwy, Montgomeryshire, reached only -1.8°C. The mean temperature for January was 0.2°C above the average, with 56% of average rainfall and 74% of average sunshine. River flows were



notably low across Wales, varying between 35% and 52% of average.

The colder weather continued for a few days, but much of **February** was mild. Storm Erik brought very windy weather on the 8th and 9th, with 84mph gusts at Capel Curig. The February temperature record for Wales was broken three times in three days: 19.1°C at Gogerddan, Ceredigion, on the 24th, 20.6°C at Trawsgoed, Ceredigion, on the 25th and 20.8°C at Porthmadog, Caernarfonshire, on the 26th. The mean temperature for the month was 2.4°C above average, making it the third warmest February since 1910. Rainfall was 84% of average, and with 150% of average sunshine, it was the second sunniest February (after 2008) since records began in 1929.



The first half of **March** was dominated by frequent rain belts interspersed with brighter showery weather. Storm Freya brought flooding and gusts of over 70 mph, with widespread fallen trees and power lines in South Wales on the 3rd. Storm Gareth brought gales in exposed places on 12th, and much of the rest of the month was wet, especially in North Wales, with 74.8mm of rain at Capel Curig on 16th. These episodes resulted in high river flows across Wales, and exceptional flows, 248% of the average, on the Conwy and Dee. There was little frost, although the temperature fell to -4.8°C at St Harmon on the 26th. The mean temperature was 1.2°C above average, rainfall was 164% of average, making it the seventh wettest March since 1910, and sunshine was 111% of average. Despite the rain, there were several grassland and forest fires towards the end of the month and through April, including one covering 100ha at Betws-y-coed, Caernarfonshire.

April started cool and unsettled, with a long spell dominated by easterly winds and several centimetres of snow on high ground in mid Wales. It was dry, sunny and very warm over Easter, between the 17th and 22nd, with a high of 25.4°C at Prestatyn, Flintshire, on the 19th and 13.2 hours of sunshine at Aberporth, Ceredigion, on the 21st. In the last week, Storm Hannah brought windy (a gust of 82 mph at Aberdaron, Caernarfonshire) and wet (55.8mm of rain at Capel Curig) on the 26th and 27th. The mean temperature for April was 1.2°C above average, rainfall was 113% of average and sunshine hours were typical.

The first half of **May** was cool and changeable, with an overnight low temperature of -4.8°C at St Harmon on the 5th and 12th, and daytime maximum of 7°C at Lake Vyrnwy on the 9th. The remainder of the month was warm and sunny, although the last week was more changeable. The mean temperature was 0.4°C below average, but it was dry, with just 55% of average rainfall and 107% of average sunshine.

The weather in **June** was changeable, but rather average, until the last week, which was warm and sunny. With 185% of average rainfall, it was the fourth wettest June in a series from 1910, which led to high river flows in much of Wales, with several rivers running at >200% of flow, and the Severn at 348% of the

monthly average. As a corollary, it was less sunny than usual, but nonetheless the mean temperature was 0.1°C above average. The month started with wind gusts of 63 mph at Capel Curig, Storm Miguel brought persistent rain on the 7th and 8th and there was a local air frost on the 10th, with a minimum of -0.3°C at St Harmon. At the other extreme, Usk in Gwent reached 29.9°C on the 29th.

The first half of **July** remained dry, but this broke down mid-month, with 42mm of rain and gusts of up to 53mph at Capel Curig and localised flooding in South Wales. There was a notable hot spell from the 22nd to 25th, with a high of 32.5°C at Colwyn Bay, Denbighshire, and an overnight low of 18.9°C at Porthmadog, Caernarfonshire, on the 25th. The mean temperature for the month was 0.9°C above average, there was just 59% of average rainfall, and sunshine hours were close to average, though were below the norm in North Wales. River flows were normal across much of the country, but the Tywi and Tawe ran at only 24% and 31% of average.

The first three weeks of **August** were bright and showery, though depressions brought periods of wet and windy weather and this led to high river flows in some rivers, up to 196% of average. It turned hot and sunny for a few days from the 23rd, with a high of 28.8°C at Gogerddan. It cooled quickly, however, and the temperature reached only 13.6°C at Sennybridge on 28th, and fell to 3.8°C that night at St Harmon. The mean temperature was 0.9°C above average, rainfall was 130% of average and sunshine was close to typical.

After a changeable start, **September** settled down, with fine weather in the middle of the month but wet conditions in the last week that brought widespread flooding to mid-Wales, e.g. there was 53.8mm of rain at Sennybridge on the 28th and the flows in the Dee and Tawe were 203% and 243% of average. This contributed to monthly rainfall that was 159% of average, making it the wettest September since 1999. The mean temperature was 0.5°C above average, thanks in part to high pressure that resulted in a high of 27.4°C at Valley, Anglesey, on the 21st, when the temperature fell no lower than 17.8°C at Porthmadog.

After a warm start, 21.3°C at Trawsgoed on the 1st was the warmest place in the UK all month, **October** was unsettled, with low pressure systems and rain belts moving in from the west at frequent intervals. The mean temperature was 0.4°C below average. Rainfall was 117% of average and sunshine was 84% of average. It was very wet on the 25th and 26th, and there was flooding in southern parts of Wales where river flows were 173%-268% of the September average. Libanus, Breconshire, recorded 101mm of rain on the 25th (the wettest 24-hour period in the UK this month) and only reached a high of 5.8°C on the 26th.

November was cool and dull, the temperature was 0.8°C below the long-term average and sunshine was just 76% of average. Rainfall was 106% of average. Following gales on the 12th and 13th, there was sleet and snow on high ground, with 2cm of lying snow at Sennybridge and Corgam, Ceredigion. Cold, sunny weather at the end of the month resulted in a maximum temperature of only 1.6°C at Lake Vyrnwy on the 30th, and widespread overnight frosts.

The cold weather continued for a few days into **December**, and the minimum temperature of -6.5°C at St Harmon on the 1st was the lowest of the winter in Wales. It soon turned unsettled, with a maximum temperature of 14.2°C at Prestatyn, while Capel Curig recorded 47.8 mm of rain and gusts to 78 mph, on the 10th. It remained unsettled until the last week of the year. The mean temperature was 1.1°C above the long-term average, rainfall was 109% of average and sunshine was just 95% of average.

Bird recording in Wales

The vast majority of records used to compile the *Welsh Bird Report*, and the data presented from national recording schemes, are collected by enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers. We sometimes lament our lack of knowledge about birds in Wales, but it is far more complete thanks to this army of unpaid expertise than it would otherwise be. The backbone of this huge collation of records is the bird clubs and

Counties in Wales used for bird-recording. Note the zones that differ from the 'old' counties: in (a) records are maintained by Denbighshire (VC50) although administratively it is in Powys; those from (b) and (c), while historically in Breconshire, are maintained by recorders in East Glamorgan and Gwent respectively; area (d), while historically in Gwent, is part of the East Glamorgan recording area and follows the modern boundary of the Cardiff and Newport unitary authorities.

the network of county bird recorders that they support. A list of bird reports appears on page 226.

The Welsh Ornithological Society uses the Watsonian vice-county system (hereafter referred to as counties for simplicity) as the basis of bird recording in Wales, illustrated on the map on page 8 (see the Ray Society, publication no. 146). This system largely matches the pre-1974 political administrative counties, but there are small differences shown on the map.

UK survey data collected in Wales

This Report uses statistics collected by two UK- and one Britain-wide monitoring scheme, and one that collects birdwatchers' records from across the World.

Indices of 58 breeding species are presented from the UK Breeding Bird Survey, where the species occurs in a minimum of 30 randomly-selected 1-km squares in Wales. These squares are visited twice each spring to record all the birds present, with habitat information also collected. The Breeding Bird Survey is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is jointly funded by the BTO, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)*.

Indices of waterbirds in Wales are presented using data collected from the Wetland Bird Survey, the current incarnation of surveys to monitor ducks, geese, swans and waders since the 1960s, and which now extends to divers, grebes, cormorants, crakes/rails, gulls, terns and Kingfisher. Volunteers count all waterbirds present on estuaries, inland waterbodies and some stretches of open coast at high tide each month. WeBS is a partnership between the British Trust for Ornithology, the RSPB and the JNCC*, in association with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

On the graphs shown in the systematic list, the blue dots show the annual index and the red line shows the smoothed trend; where shown the blue shading denotes the 95% confidence intervals. Headline figures for Wales from BirdTrack show the number of records received in Wales and, importantly, the proportion of 'complete lists' on which the species occurred during the year. BirdTrack lists convert unstructured sightings into data that can be analysed, as well as providing a platform for birdwatchers to maintain their records and submit them automatically to local bird recorders. BirdTrack is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology for the BTO, RSPB, BirdWatch Ireland, Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society.

We encourage WOS members and *Welsh Bird Report* readers to register on BirdTrack.net and use it whenever you're birding, and for those who are able to commit to regular surveys, to contact their BTO.org regional representative.

Finally, the Welsh Ornithological Society and all the county recorders in Wales support the work of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Welsh data contributes to the UK RBBP annual report published in *British Birds*. To encourage greater coverage of the rare and scarce breeding species, their current Welsh status is shown in the relevant species headers here. All breeding evidence, including the presence of birds in suitable breeding habitat at the right time of year - including non-native species - is important to the assessment of the county, Welsh and UK populations of these rarer species. A list of the RBBP species that occur in Wales is on the WOS website: **https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/recording-rare-birds/**.

* JNCC involvement in the partnerships listed is on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Rare and scarce birds in Wales

The Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC, formerly the Welsh Records Panel) is part of the Welsh Ornithological Society and considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year in Wales on average, but which are not on the list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

The full list of Category A species which the Panel considered is as follows. In addition, WBRC assesses descriptions of Category B species that are not considered by the BBRC, and scarce subspecies (see below):

Taiga Bean Goose	White-winged Black Tern	Dusky Warbler
Tundra Bean Goose	White-billed Diver	Greenish Warbler
American Wigeon	Wilson's Petrel	Arctic Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Cory's Shearwater	Aquatic Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Great Shearwater	Blyth's Reed Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	White Stork	Marsh Warbler
Lesser Scaup	Glossy Ibis	Melodious Warbler
Surf Scoter	Night-heron	Icterine Warbler
Smew	Purple Heron	Barred Warbler
Alpine Swift	Montagu's Harrier	Rose-coloured Starling
Corncrake	Black Kite	Bluethroat
Spotted Crake	White-tailed Eagle	Nightingale
Crane	Rough-legged Buzzard	Red-flanked Bluetail
Red-necked Grebe	Bee-eater	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Stone-curlew	Red-footed Falcon	Citrine Wagtail
American Golden Plover	Red-backed Shrike	Olive-backed Pipit
Kentish Plover	Woodchat Shrike	Tawny Pipit
Temminck's Stint	Golden Oriole	Common Rosefinch
White-rumped Sandpiper	Penduline Tit	Arctic Redpoll
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Bearded Tit*	Serin
Pectoral Sandpiper	Shore Lark	Corn Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Short-toed Lark	Ortolan Bunting
Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-rumped Swallow	Cirl Bunting
Ring-billed Gull	Pallas's Warbler	Little Bunting
Caspian Gull	Radde's Warbler	Rustic Bunting

*WBRC only assesses records away from Gwent/East Glamorgan, where Bearded Tits breed.

Scarce subspecies are considered on the same basis, i.e. all those occurring on average five times or fewer annually. Examples considered by the WBRC are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*	Grey-headed Wagtail – *thunbergi*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*	Treecreeper – *familaris*
Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*	Coal Tit – *ater*
Razorbill – *torda*	Jay – *glandarius*
Little Auk – *polaris*	Jackdaw – *monedula*
Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*	Bullfinch – *pyrrhula*

Descriptions can be submitted via county recorders or direct to the WBRC Secretary. Forms are available from county recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the WBRC can see its deliberations on the record on request. The Committee has five voting members and a non-voting Secretary. Membership in 2019 comprised: Steve Stansfield - Bardsey (Chair), Richard Brown – Skokholm and Pembrokeshire, Chris Jones – Denbighshire, Simon Murray – East Glamorgan and Gower, Paul Roberts – East Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfonshire, and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green – Ceredigion.

Not all records of species on these lists reach the relevant committee. Records not published here may never have been submitted or still be under consideration. It is helpful if descriptions of BBRC and WBRC species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting. Records should be submitted to BBRC through county recorders or in an electronic form to **secretary@bbrc.org.uk**. If it is a written or typed description. please send to the WBRC Secretary who will scan and send it on to BBRC.

Jon Green, Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR, email:
welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk.

Treatment of records in the *Welsh Bird Report*

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 2019 unless otherwise indicated. Bird reports were available for all recording areas except Gwent and Radnorshire, although selected information was available for both counties and has been used within the species accounts. Any errors or emissions will be corrected in the 2020 report.

Species names and order follow the International Ornithological Congress taxonomy, but vernacular names in English and Welsh are those that are widely used by birders. The species included in the main list are those placed by WOS in Category A (recorded in an apparently natural state in Wales at least once since 1 January 1950) or Category C (introduced species that have a self-sustaining population). A list of birds, to subspecies level, that have been recorded in Wales is available at **https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee/**.

The status summaries (in italics below each species name) have been updated, based on assessments to be published in *The Birds of Wales* (Pritchard *et al.* in prep.), using population estimates in Hughes *et al*. (2020) and Eaton *et al*. (2020). The definitions used, based on records during 1990-2019, are: Abundant, Fairly Common, Uncommon/Localised, Scarce (more than 35 records in total but <5 records per year), Rare (10-35 birds), Very rare (3-9 birds) and Extremely rare (1-2 birds). Waterbird alerts for Wales are from Woodward *et al*. (2019).

For some species, monthly maximum counts for the main sites are tabulated as available. These figures are the peak count recorded at each site in that month and do not represent coordinated counts on a single day. Some overlap may therefore occur, as birds move between sites. For some wildfowl, the numbers of breeding pairs are assessed by the number of males present during the breeding season.

WOS and county bird recorders have formally agreed the adoption of county names in both Welsh and English languages, which are shown on the website **birdsin.wales**. These reflect local usage, even though they vary in their use of the '-shire' suffix. These names are shown on the map on page 8, but for conciseness, the systematic list uses shortened forms (e.g. Brecon, not Breconshire).

Records from GLAMORGAN are split into E.GLAMORGAN and GOWER. Where sites border two vice-counties (mostly estuaries), records are shown based on the county from which they were seen, unless they were reported from both, for example on the well-watched Teifi estuary where birds are frequently reported from both Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion, so records are shown as PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION. In

these instances, the maximum number/date range is reported, even if the exact dates and numbers differ slightly from each side.

Most of RSPB Conwy nature reserve is in DENBIGH, but a very small part of the reserve lies in CAERNARFON. Much of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands nature reserve is in Wirral, but this report includes records where birds were known to be in FLINT.

The records for some species are summarised to show the total recorded in each month for each county. Where a bird stays into two or more months it is recorded for each month. In tables of early and late migrants, the most extreme date is shown in bold type. Where comparable counts are shown for breeding seabirds, those that are lower in the current year are shaded grey.

The conservation status of each species in Wales is noted as Red, Amber or Green species of conservation concern in Wales, based on Johnstone and Bladwell (2016).

It is the policy of the Society NOT TO PUBLISH in this Report any records of species on the list of the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) or of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee unless that record has been considered and accepted by the BBRC or WBRC. Where a species is on one of these lists, this is noted in the comment on status. All records have been accepted by the relevant body unless specifically stated otherwise.

Abbreviations used in the report:

AOL	Adults on Land
AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
AOS	Apparently Occupied Sites
asl	above sea level
CP	Country Park
est.	estuary
GC	Golf course
GP	Gravel Pit
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
NNR	National Nature Reserve (designated)
p.	Species present (in tables)
R.	River
Res.	Reservoir
RG	Ringing Group
STW	Sewage Treatment Works

Birds are aged according to their calendar year, as transcribed in the table below.

Welsh Bird Report description	Non-calendar description
Juvenile	Used only in relation to birds at nest/colony
1CY	Juvenile, first-winter (to 31 Dec.)
2CY	1st winter (from 1 Jan.), 1st summer, 2nd-winter (to 31 Dec.)
3CY	2nd-winter (from 1 Jan.), 2nd-summer, 3rd-winter (to 31 Dec.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to every birdwatcher who submitted a record during 2019. This report would be nothing without you. And an even bigger thank you to the county recorders and bird report editors who compile their local reports, shared their draft reports and answered my queries so promptly.

Sections of this report were compiled by Julian Hughes (gamebirds and wildfowl), Richard Facey (Nightjar to grebes), Rhion Pritchard (waders), Bob Haycock (seabirds), Jon Green (Glossy Ibis to falcons), Keith Noble (shrikes to Long-tailed Tit), Dr Stephanie Tyler (warblers to Dipper) and Jez Smith (sparrows to New World warblers). Extra information was supplied by Martin Scott of HiDef Aerial Surveying Ltd (Common Scoter), Adrienne Stratford (Cross and Stratford Welsh Chough Project), Simon Wotton (Willow Tit) and the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme.

Thanks also to Lee Barber (British Trust for Ornithology) for compiling the Ringing Report; to Reg Thorpe and Adrienne Stratford for updating the Welsh List on behalf of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee and for reassessing the status of scarce and rare species; and to the photographers, who are credited in the captions. Special thanks to Ian Spence for producing the maps using DMAP by Dr A.J. Morton and QGIS, and for undertaking the design of the Report once again. Thanks to the secretariats of BirdTrack, the Wetland Bird Survey and Breeding Bird Survey for providing the data used in the report.

This Report appears slightly later than usual, in part because several of the people involved in its production were, until December 2020, also working on a new avifauna of *The Birds of Wales*, to be published by Liverpool University Press and WOS in 2021. My special thanks to them for contributing to both the book and the report in parallel.

Julian Hughes, Editor.

Errata from 2018

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*, Hwyaden Benddu Fechan). ANGLESEY: male at Llyn Llygeirian from 20 Oct. remained only until 30 Dec. 2018.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotus*, Pibydd Cain). CARMARTHEN: juv. was at Penclacwydd on 14-16 Sept., not Oct.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

BLACK GROUSE *Lyrurus tetrix* GRUGIAR DDU

Localised and declining breeding resident on moorlands of North Wales. There were 328 lekking males in the core area in 2018. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	68	96
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: there was no co-ordinated lek survey in 2019, so the counts below are not comparable to those in previous Welsh Bird Reports. It is believed from unpublished sources that total numbers at Moel Famau were similar to 2018 but that those at Ruabon Mountain were lower. Lekking males, unless otherwise stated: MONTGOMERY: two and a female/immature at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: five at three sites in Berwyn in Feb./March; female at Pen y Garreg, Brithdir, in June; DENBIGH: 18 on Ruabon Mountain; 16 at Pentredwr; 11 at Gwynfryn; seven at Bryneglwys; six at Moel Famau; singles at Moel-y-Gaer and Gors Maen Llwyd; FLINT: eight at Moel Famau; one at Penycloddiau.

Outside the breeding season: MEIRIONNYDD: two females at Hafod Uchel, Berwyn, on 11 Jan.; DENBIGH: max. 45 at World's End, on 18 Feb. and 18 on 1 Dec.; three at Mwdwl Eithin on 22 Oct.; one at Foel Goch on 7 Dec.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus* GRUGIAR GOCH

Localised resident on heather uplands (835 breeding pairs). Has declined but may have stabilised in recent years. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	117	132
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A further small increase in BirdTrack records, but presumed greatly under-recorded.

Breeding (counts are individuals unless otherwise stated): GWENT: up to eight on The Blorenge in May and Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: up to four on Waun Wen in July; CEREDIGION: six at Pengarreg Gopa on 29 April; one at Pumlumon on 7 and 10 May; BRECON: five pairs and a single territorial bird on Mynydd Llangynidr and Llangatwg in March, and five broods seen in mid-Aug.; male on Waun Fach on 27 May; RADNOR: present at Beacon Hill in June; MONTGOMERY: small numbers at the source of the Severn and RSPB Lake Vyrnwy in April, at Glaslyn MWT reserve in April, June and Sept., and at Llyn Glanmer in Jan. and June; MEIRIONNYDD: 14 territories at Tan yr Allt, and single birds at seven other sites; DENBIGH: 10 at World's End on 4 March, six on Ruabon Mountain in May (19 here on 29 Oct.); three at Gwynfryn in April; seven at Moel y Faen in April; three at Pentredwr; singles at Gors Maen Llwyd and Moel Famau.

Non-breeding (in addition to sites above): GWENT: 1-2 on Coity Mt. in each winter period; CARMARTHEN: eight at a site on 15 Jan.; BRECON: three territories on Y Gyrn in Feb.; present on Twyn Du and Pen-y-Gadair Fawr in March, Craig Gwaun Taf in Nov. and Twr Pen-cwrn in Dec.; RADNOR: 10 at Beacon Hill on 31 March; MONTGOMERY: one at Llechwedd Llwyd near Pont Rhydgaled on 30 March; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Foel Boeth on 1 Jan. and 29 March; two at Wylfa, Liberty Hall, on 14 Jan.; one on Moel Ysgyfarnogod on 26 Feb.; CAERNARFON: two on Tal-y-fan on 3 Jan. and one on 18 March.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Introduced (Category C) and localised (1400 breeding pairs). Most sightings are of birds released for shooting, and there are few records of breeding.

The county with most records, indicating the highest levels of release, was ANGLESEY, particularly around

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	164	155
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Llanddyfnan and Dulas. It is interesting that the number of BirdTrack records is now only a little higher than for Red Grouse.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* PETRISEN

Scarce, almost extinct, breeding species. Remaining populations are probably maintained by releases. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	16	4
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records: E.GLAMORGAN: two at Aberthaw on 16 May; one at Marcross on 17 May; one at Maes Mawr, near Treforest Ind. Estate on 16-17 Sept.; FLINT: two near Gronant on 15 May.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* SOFLIAR

Rare and irregular breeding species, irruptive in some years; scarce passage migrant. RBBP: 12 in 2018. Wales Amber listed.

31-33 calling males was the highest total since 2011 and included several records of 2-3 birds. All records were singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Waun Wen on 12 and 14 July, at 460m asl; GOWER: two at Pitton Cross on 1 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Marloes Mere on 31 May; Skokholm on 31 May-4 June; two at Camrose on 14 June; Llanrhian on 18 June; Brynberian on 21 June; St Ishmael's on 16 July; Brawdy on 11 Aug.; CEREDIGION: one near Llyn Llygad Rheidiol on 23 July, and two here on 26 July; BRECON: Blaen Llynfi from 22 May to 27 July; Llechfaen on 9 June; three at Pencelli on 13 June; Llanfilo on 15 July; RADNOR: three records; MONTGOMERY: north end of Lake Vyrnwy on 29 June; CAERNARFON: three at Uwchmynydd on 14 May and two here on 11 June; Bryn Llech near Llan Ffestiniog on 10 July; Foel Boeth, southwest of Capel Celyn, on 11 and 23 July; DENBIGH: Llyn Aled Isaf on 19 June; Turpeg Mynydd on 21 June; Holt on 5 June.

Red Grouse (Cameron Sharp)

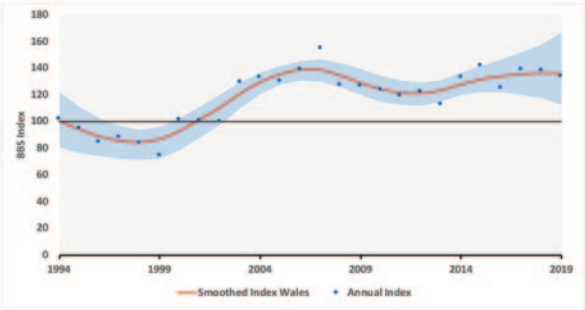
PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* FFESANT

Introduced (Category C) and fairly common throughout Wales (165,000 breeding pairs). Many more are released than breed, but few records are included in county reports.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2455	3170
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	14%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been stable since around 2005, but is 46% higher than in 1994. Notable was a nest in a tussock of Marram Grass at Harlech Dunes, MEIRIONNYDD, with 17 eggs.

Breeding Bird Survey: Pheasant in Wales, 1994 - 2019

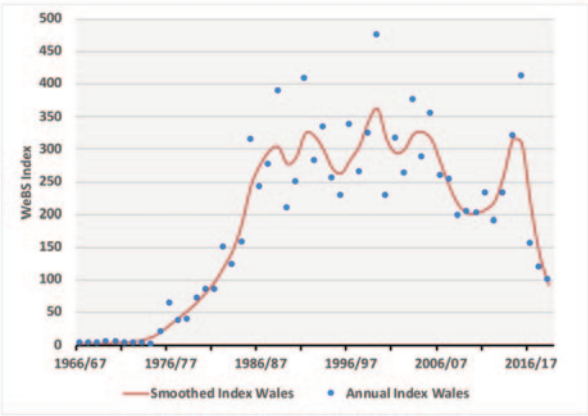


BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* GWYDD DDU

Regular wintering populations are found in the Burry Inlet and around the Menai Strait. Elsewhere, small numbers are recorded in winter and on passage. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	314	423
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Wetland Bird Survey: Dark-bellied Brent Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2019



***B.b. bernicla* (Dark-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Foldywyll)**

Amber WeBS alert: -36% long-term, greater than in England as a result of the main Welsh population, on the Burry Inlet, declining since the start of the 21st century.

The annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fell for its third consecutive year, to its lowest level for almost 40 years. The peak count in the Burry Inlet, the main site in Wales, was only 55% of the 2005-18 mean.

Other large counts: GOWER: 253 at Dalton's Pt on 12 Jan.; 566 at Landimore and Crofty on 30 Jan., 456 here on 14 Feb. and 282 on 11 March; 150 at Llanrhidian on 31 Aug.; 225 at Broughton Bay on 19 Nov.; 221 at Wernffwd on 29 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 68 at Machynys on 21 Oct., 228 on 29 Nov. and 250 on 21 Dec.

***B.b. hrota* (Pale-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Canada)**

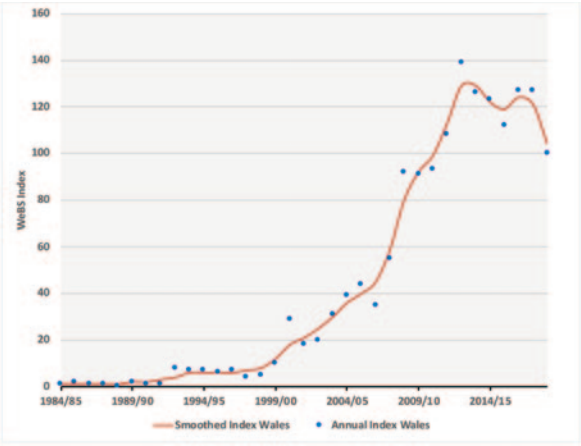
Numbers of pale-bellied *hrota* monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey are at their lowest point this decade following a previous period of sustained growth, but a count on Anglesey in November 2019 (a period not included in the chart) was the highest ever in Wales.

B.b. bernicla

Monthly max. at the main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER									
Whiteford	200+	400+	156			15	219	430	129
Weobley		337	16				47		60
Llanrhidian		280	240						37
CARMARTHEN									
Penclacwydd	383	280		1			40	32	24
Pwll		103					112	247	50

Wetland Bird Survey: Pale-bellied Brent Goose in Wales, 1984 - 2019



B.b. hrota Monthly max. at the main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CAERNARFON									
Foryd	54	153	210	44		255	*c*.340	*c*.320	*c*.160
Traeth Lafan	63	56	62	64			*c*.10		32
ANGLESEY									
Alaw estuary		92	255	1		36	37	285	1
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	357	142	292	250+		28	*c*.140	823*	530
Traeth Melynog	199	85					191	512	545

*Welsh record count

Max. counts at other sites: GOWER: 68 at Blackpill on 14 April, six here on 4 June, 30 on 15 Sept. and 50 on 5 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 25 on the Gann est. in March and Sept.; 47 at Angle Bay in Nov.; CAERNARFON: 22 at Rhos Pt on 29 Sept.; ANGLESEY: max. 63 at Lleiniog on 5 Jan. (same flock at Traeth Lafan, in table); 30 at Moelfre on 11 Jan.; 23 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 14 Feb.; 19 at Traeth Bach on 15 Feb.; 50 at Llanddona on 6 April and *c*.50 here on 27 Dec.; 64 at Cemlyn on 2 Nov.; 29 at Silver Bay on 1 Dec.

Approximate monthly totals of both subspecies, excluding the above, are tabulated:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
bernicla	18	34	35	8	2				2	25	62	90
hrota	27	23	16	16					10	4	13	18
race unknown		28		2	1				4	1	42	51

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* GWYDD CANADA

Fairly common (8850 breeding pairs) and increasing introduced breeding resident (Category C). Large post-breeding gatherings occur.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	3986	5024
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	22%

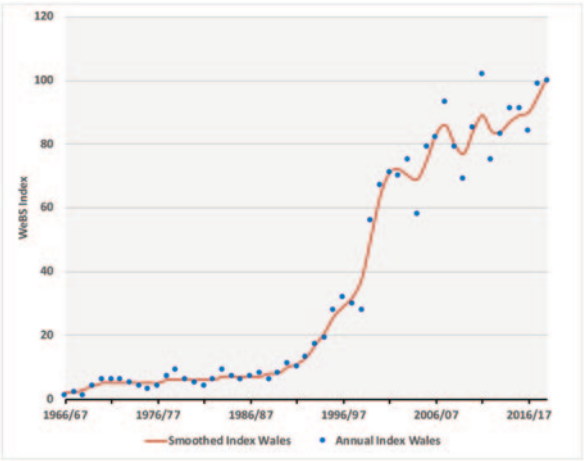
The rate of growth in breeding numbers in Wales is slower this century compared to the 1990s, but the smoothed index has reached a new high.

Breeding records, presumed under-recorded: GWENT: evidence from at least 25 sites, the greatest number being at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) with at least eight broods; E.GLAMORGAN: 18 pairs bred at 16 sites; GOWER: 17 pairs bred at 10 sites; CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred at Penclacwydd; BRECON: 19 pairs bred at 13 sites, plus a crèche of 51 young at Llangorse Lake in June; MEIRIONNYDD: nine broods at

The number of sites holding at least 300 birds (tabulated below) is the highest ever, and 65% above the 2005-18 mean.

>300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	306	273	290	181	201	75	123	71	40	401	399	211
The Warrage		5	12	4	31	4	104		33	350	32	94
E.GLAMORGAN												
Flemingston			63		46					237	387	319
Hendre Lake	24	20	50	P	14	P	50	37	8	300	14	28
Ogmore estuary	134	99	29	10	24	8	26	139	500	217	162	60
GOWER												
Fendrod Lake	508	90	33	20	78	90	91	15	19	10	29	45
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	342	250	42							421	2000	2000
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	90	5	43			407	401		40	56	308	34
Nevern estuary		18	7				50	750	1725	485		
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	180	25	8			300			300	850	40	
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	1582	702	336						661	931	855	544
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	493	265	173	40		470		430	14	260	119	275
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	788	8	7						764	616	825	284
Glaslyn Marshes	270	623	56							330	165	700
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Cors Ddyga	38		45	18	97	15	30+	27	15	350	182	55
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	20	47	50	43	50	392	393	4			4	7
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt	1000			12	21	45	500	1500	350	6	1200	3000
Point of Ayr	122	334	93							160		200
Connah's Quay NR	2900	1400	50	30	6	15	630	1200			320	
White Sands		1500		10	14	4	3	2000		200	40	1500
Clwyd estuary		127	54	49	93			402	40	7	100	63

Wetland Bird Survey: Canada Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2019



three sites, eight pairs at six sites; CAERNARFON: bred at multiple sites including nine upland lakes and one nest on Ynys Gwylan Fawr; ANGLESEY: bred at five sites; DENBIGH: 14 nests at RSPB Conwy fledged 17 young; FLINT: bred at six sites, most prolifically around the Clwyd est. where there were 119 fledged young in July.

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: GWENT: 677 at Newbridge on Usk on 15 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 400+ on stubble fields near St Mellons on 7 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 500 at Dolydd Hafren on 13 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 429 at Ynys on 28 Jan.; 300 at Minffordd on 7 Feb.; FLINT: 325 at Rhyl on 8 Aug.; 1500 at Flint on 24 Aug.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* GWYDD WYRAN

A regular winter visitor to the Dyfi estuary (breeding in Cumbria). Scarce breeder, but regular at two sites since the early 21st century (Category C). Wales Green listed.

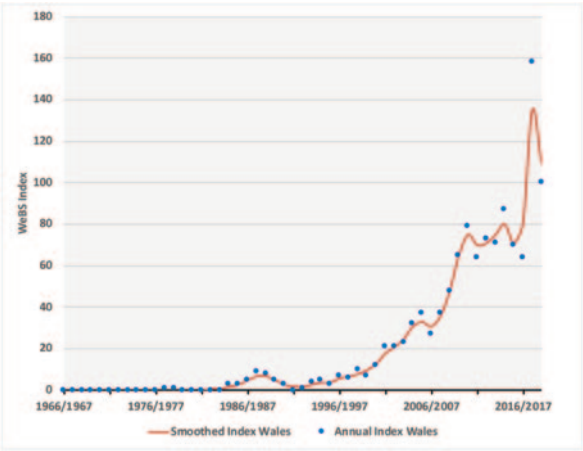
	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**191**	**219**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: CEREDIGION: 40 nests on Cardigan Island; BRECON: four pairs bred on the Crannog at Llangorse Lake.

Approximate monthly totals for each county:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2	18	2						1		2	2
E.GLAMORGAN	1		1			1						
PEMBROKE						2			1	1	2	1
CEREDIGION/PEMBROKE												
Teifi estuary/Cardigan Is.		110							130			
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi estuary	5	23	29					182	386	378	608	530
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake			32	44				42				
MEIRIONNYDD except Dyfi		1		4	4							
CAERNARFON				2		3						
ANGLESEY	7	7	7		1	2			1			
DENBIGH		1										
FLINT			3	3							1	

Wetland Bird Survey: Barnacle Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales dropped a little, but is nonetheless the second highest on record. The 608 on the Dyfi estuary in November (not yet included in the WeBS index) is the largest count ever in Wales. There is also an increasing naturalised population in the Severn Valley, which probably accounts for the flock at Newport Wetlands, GWENT, in February.

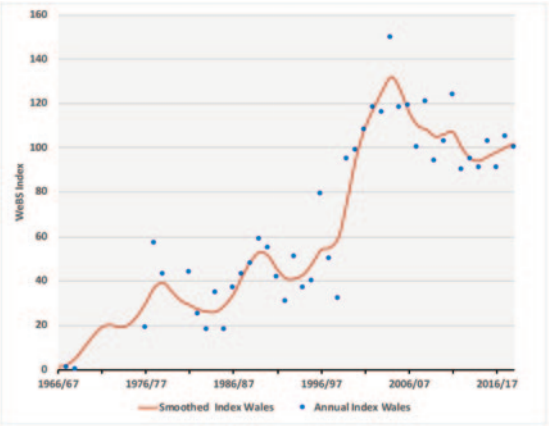
GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* GWYDD LWYD

All records relate to naturalised birds (Category C). Localised breeder (1650 pairs), mainly in the north but increasing farther south.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1682	2502
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	11%

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: two pairs bred at Kenfig Pool; pairs in suitable habitat at 11 other sites; GOWER: single broods at Fairwood Lodge Lake and Crymlyn Burrows; CARMARTHEN: nine pairs bred at Penclacwydd; BRECON: pair nested at Dolymynach Res. but no chicks reported; CAERNARFON: pair bred at Morfa Madryn; ANGLESEY: bred at nine sites; DENBIGH: 12 pairs at six sites; FLINT: bred at four sites, including Nannerch fish pond (35 fledged) and the Clwyd est. (min. 68 fledged).

Wetland Bird Survey: Greylag Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Numbers counted by the Wetland Bird Survey have stabilised this century, following several years of significant growth in the late 1990s. However, the number of sites with over 100 birds (below, page 21) was the highest ever, 64% above the 2005-18 mean.

Counts/maxima of 100+ elsewhere: GOWER: *c.*210 over Cefn Bryn toward Weobley saltings on 25 Aug.; 336 at Llanrhidian Marsh on 26 Aug.; 232 at Staffal Haegr on 4 Sept., 284 here on 14th and 120 on 2 Oct.; *c.*150 above Long Hole Cliff on 19 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 100 at Dolydd Hafren on 10 Feb.; 100 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 14 Sept.; CAERNARFON: *c.*170 at Felinheli on 3 Aug.; 510 flew up the Menai Strait on 22 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 188 on the Alaw est. on 15 Feb.; *c.*200 at Caergeiliog on 28 July; 310 at Llyn Llywenan on 11 July; DENBIGH: 140 at Aberwheeler on 25 Jan.; 500 at Gresford Flash on 11 Oct.; 200 at Farndon on 21 Oct.; FLINT: 232 at Talacre on 18 Sept.

>100 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	100	33	78	58	75	111	89	26	26	69	101	60
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	407	75	31							98	207	279
Dinefwr Ponds	192	300	12									
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	97	143	*c*.50	10	14		59	228	245	140	132	135
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	27	48	158	114	85	694	906	100	86	230	359	37
Cemlyn			6	8	10	51	19	60+	212	30		
RSPB Cors Ddyga	*c*.250	25	57	52	57	30	32	36	100	340	350	400
Llyn Coron	63	50	2	0	0	0	1	0	210	0	0	0
Llyn Bodgylched	180	0	15						130	0	18	40
DENBIGH												
Lleweni Watermeadows	221	196	148	34	64	4	5			245	284	321
RSPB Conwy	3	110	22	12	2	51	50	1	41		18	
Llyn Brenig			10	12	8	212	130					5
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	400	400	1		6		165	440		365	480	311
Fagl Lane GP	140	3	18	14		2					37	

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* GWYDD DROETBINC

Regular on the Dee estuary (Flintshire), in growing numbers since 2010. Elsewhere, a scarce and irregular winter visitor, chiefly to North Wales. Spring and summer records relate to naturalised birds, as may some winter and autumn records. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**225**	**272**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**1%**

The highest count on the Dee estuary, FLINT, during the first winter period was 6500 at White Sands on 8 March, far lower than the previous year's record 10,000 but nonetheless higher than the 2013-17 average. In the second winter period, the peak count was 4000 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands/Shotwick Fields on 29 Oct.

The table below shows county totals in each month away from the Dee:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN				1						
PEMBROKE								1		
CEREDIGION	1			2				16		
MEIRIONNYDD	1							4	2	1
CAERNARFON		2					80	1		
ANGLESEY	1	29	3	2					*c*.30	1
DENBIGH		2	2	1			3	3	1	1
FLINT	10	27		2		1				1

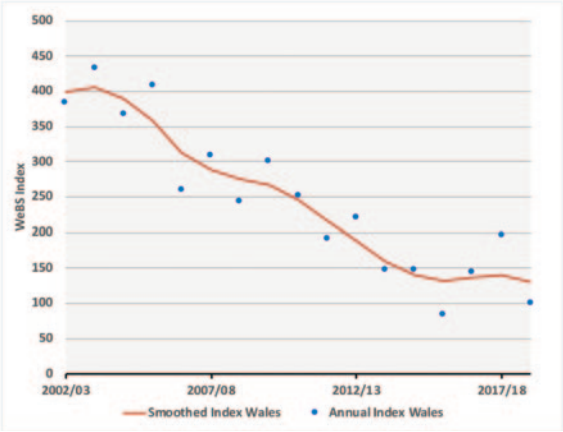
Two at Parc Brynbach, GWENT, during Jan.-April were considered to be escape/feral birds.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* GWYDD DALCENWEN

Scarce winter visitor. Ceredigion and Anglesey support the only regular flocks of flavirostris. Rare elsewhere, although hard weather can result in increases in albifrons from the east. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	111	86
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Greenland White-fronted Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2019



***A.a. flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcenwen yr Ynys Las)**

There has been a global decline in numbers of this subspecies, with a flyway population of just 22,000 birds. Low breeding productivity is a fundamental problem, so Welsh Government's decision to end hunting from 2020 should improve the condition of birds prior to their return migration. The Dyfi estuary population remains desperately small, less than half the 2005-18 average, but encouragingly the number on Anglesey was double that of the 2018 peak.

All records: CEREDIGION: max. 17 on Dyfi estuary in first winter period, birds remaining until 5 April; also a juv. near Gwbert on 6 Jan. and 27 April; max. 21 on Dyfi in second winter period, from 4 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Glandyfi on 2 April; ANGLESEY: up to eight at RSPB Cors Ddyga in Jan. and March, and 19 here on 18-28 Nov.

***A.a. albifrons* (European White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcenwen Ewrop)**

All records: GWENT: five at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from 9 Jan. to 17 March; BRECON: one at Llangasty on 5 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: two at Dolydd Hafren on 5 March and one here on 21 March; ANGLESEY: flock at RSPB Valley Wetlands from 29 Jan. to 12 Feb., max. 27 on 29 Jan.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* ALARCH DOF

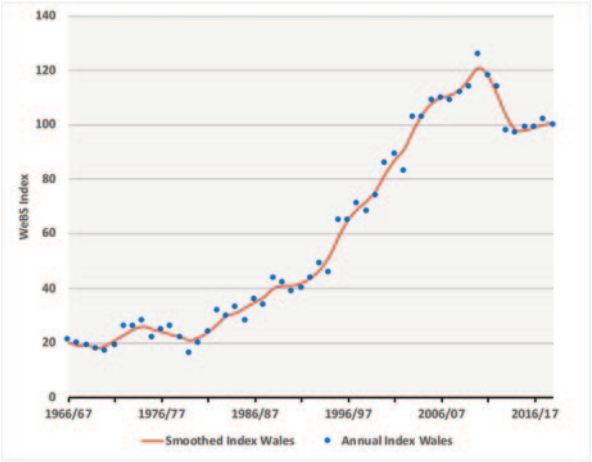
Localised resident (485 breeding pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	3962	4599
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	20%

Breeding counts (not full surveys except Gower): GWENT: broods at 12 sites, including two at Newport Wetlands Reserve; E.GLAMORGAN: 19 pairs bred at 16 sites, possibly at 15 other sites; GOWER: 13 nests, of which nine were successful, hatched 49 cygnets and fledged 30; CARMARTHEN: nine pairs at six sites fledged 52 young; PEMBROKE: bred at seven sites; CEREDIGION: bred on the lower Teifi and at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: four broods at Llangorse Lake, and single broods at nine other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: four broods at three sites; CAERNARFON: bred at five sites, possibly at two others; ANGLESEY: bred at two sites; DENBIGH: pairs bred at four sites, possibly at two others; FLINT: eight pairs bred at four sites.

Non-breeding: the population seems to have stabilised following a sharp drop between 2010/11 and 2013/14, although the frequency of recording on BirdTrack lists has fallen from a peak of 25% in 2016. The 278 in Cardiff Bay in August is the largest ever count in Wales.

Wetland Bird Survey: Mute Swan in Wales, 1966 - 2019



The number of sites holding >40 birds at least once during the year (listed below) was the highest since 2010.

>40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
St Brides	84	59	59	4						4	82	91
E.GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park Lake	56	41	48	42	51	63	74	81	51	42	48	46
Cardiff Bay	30	16	21	38	171	229	242	278	108	30	16	4
Cosmeston Lakes CP	40	27	45	59	60	58	33	42	37	34	40	35
Knap Lake, Barry	43	42	53	27			27	27	27	44	44	54
CARMARTHEN												
Sandy Water Park	11	21	15	13	16	51	62	42	8	11	8	6
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	51	32	6			37	44		141	63	89	50
Llanstadwell	25	13						31	68	6	7	5
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	41	32	27	46	96	142	178	170	139	71	37	35
Ffordd Fawr	2	8	42	2	2	2			5	20	2	6
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	11	5	3	5	22	98	104	127	193	138	10	14
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Cefni	10	10	6	33	38	74	86	65	69	90	82	76
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	22	2	24						28	40	46	26
RSPB Cors Ddyga	31	69	46	20+	7	6	12	8	10	8	9	36
FLINT												
Shotwick	79		25									
Clwyd estuary		4	6	40	58	63		7	20			

Counts of 40+ elsewhere: GWENT: 100 at Llanllowell on 20 Jan.; 80 on the Ebbw est. on 25 Jan. and 86 here on 26 Feb.; 67 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 18 March; RADNOR: 48 on the R. Wye between Hay and Bronydd.

Ringing: GOWER: 2CY on the Afan est. on 20 Jan. had been ringed as a female cygnet at Nine Springs, Yeovil, Somerset, on 23 Aug. 2018; MONTGOMERY: a 21-year-old male, Z91240, was found dead at Llanymynech, only 8km from where it was ringed as a nestling, at Wern near Arddleen, in 1998.

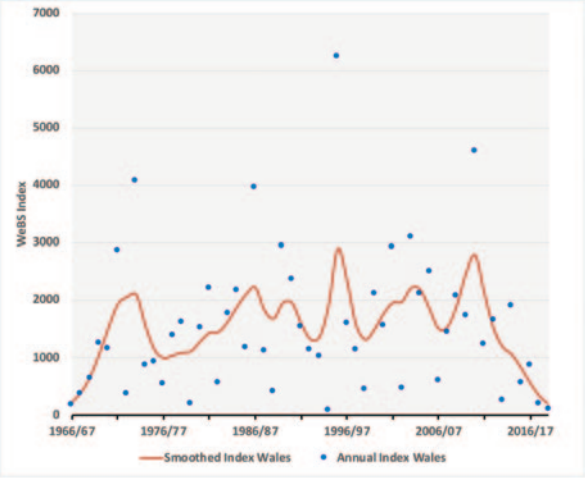
BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* ALARCH BEWICK

Irregular winter visitor in vanishingly small numbers. Red WeBS alert: -63% long-term and -72% short-term. Wales Red-listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	19	59
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The decline evident since 2010 has accelerated. There were few birds even at traditional locations: three in Gwent's Usk Valley and six on the Dee estuary, Flintshire, in 2018/19 and none at either location in the second winter period.

Wetland Bird Survey: Bewick's Swan in Wales, 1966 - 2019



All records: GWENT: three at Llandowlais Farm, Usk, on 2 Jan.; two at Llangybi on 3-5 Jan. and 17 Jan.; three at Llanllowell on 25 Jan.; two at Llandegfedd Res. from 25 Jan. to 7 Feb.; two in the Nedern valley on 17-22 Feb.; two at Caldicot Pill on 20-22 Feb.; PEMBROKE: two in Fishguard Harbour on 17 Nov.; FLINT: max. on the Dee estuary, six at White Sands on 8 Jan. and three at Shotwick Fields on 20 Jan.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

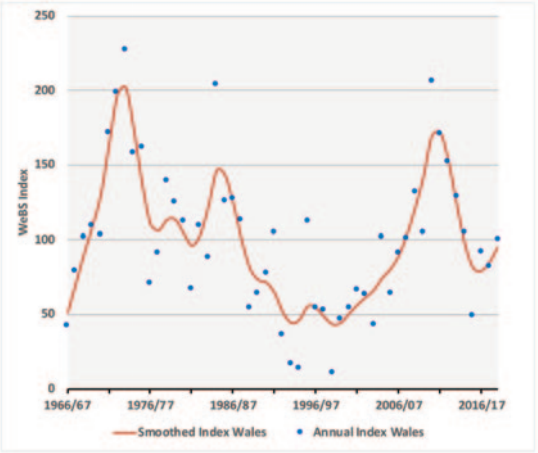
Regular winter visitor in small numbers to several Welsh counties. Red WeBS alert: -56% short-term (the greatest decline in any UK country) but +21% for long-term. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	212	251
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen by more than half during this decade, but flocks of >10 birds were seen at 15 sites, above the average for 2005-18, in part owing to movements through west Wales in the autumn. The flock size in the Tywi valley, Carmarthenshire, in February was the largest ever seen in the county, and only just short of the Welsh record count.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN								
Tywi valley	65	80	63	6		16	55	71
MEIRIONNYDD								
R. Glaslyn	66	72	51	3		3	52	63
ANGLESEY								
RSPB Cors Ddyga	30	13	14			4	6	16
Alaw estuary	14	12		4				
Llangwyllog	59	57						
FLINT								
Dee estuary	31	36	15	1		9		20

Wetland Bird Survey: Whooper Swan in Wales, 1966 - 2019



May-Sept. records, all singles: PEMBROKE: Nevern est. on 10-11 May; CARMARTHEN: Dryswlyn on 9 June; ANGLESEY: at various sites from June to Sept.; DENBIGH: Lleweni Watermeadows on 20 June; presumed same on R. Clwyd, FLINT, on 23 June.

Elsewhere, county totals in each month:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	3					2	1	4
E.GLAMORGAN	1			1		5		2
GOWER	1					7		
CARMARTHEN				1		11		
PEMBROKE	8	18	9	2		17	17	3
CEREDIGION	12					29	18	
BRECON							3	
RADNOR							3	
MONTGOMERY	6	3						1
MEIRIONNYDD	11					2	3	
CAERNARFON		30				42	3	
ANGLESEY	11						13	
DENBIGH	3	3		1			2	2
FLINT	1					2		

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* GWYDD YR AIFFT

Introduced (Category C). Despite an increase in numbers and range in England, it remains scarce in Wales.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**19**	**125**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

The 14 records this year, involving 25 individuals, is the highest ever total (previous high was 14 birds in 2005) in Wales, and three times the average for 2005-18. All records were single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 14 May; E.GLAMORGAN: Aberdare Park in Jan.-May and Dec.; two at Lisvane Res. on 24 April; five at Sker Pt on 28 Oct.; GOWER: Wernffrwd on 22 April; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 20-23 April; two at Dryslwyn on 29-30 Nov. and then at Penclacwydd on 2-7 Dec.; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 2-8 May; ANGLESEY: two at RSPB Valley Wetlands on 8 April; DENBIGH: Dongray Hall on 12 Feb.; two at RSPB Conwy on 23 March; two at Lleweni Watermeadows on 8 April; FLINT: up to three on the Dee est. from Jan. to 3 May and a single here until 28 Sept.; two (quite likely from the Dee) on the Clwyd est. from 8 May to 3 Sept. and one here from 12 Oct. to 6 Nov.

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: the bird at Penclacwydd in April had been ringed in Belgium.

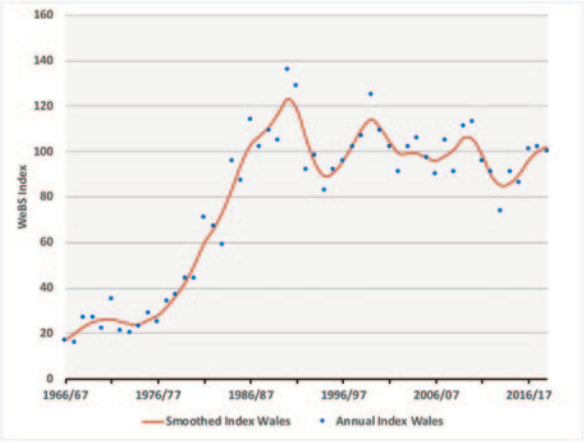
SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Localised, possibly declining, breeding resident (1250 pairs) in coastal areas. Rare passage migrant to inland counties. Wales Amber listed.

>100 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Caldicott Pill	150	175	59	36		63	177	66	215	211	191	78
Collister Pill	231			55			91				18	119
Newport Wetlands	125	196	196	200	60	288	114	200	750	70	350	85
Peterstone Gout	115	150	93		23	20	24	59			25	
Peterstone Wentlooge	50+		25	39		40			176	200		80
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	111	50	80	20	15	10			580		380	40
Rumney Great Wharf		36	30	83	15			44			100	110
GOWER												
Whiteford	138	231	147		2		18	9		11	160	139
Weobley	110	381	370	38				27				222
Llanrhidian		21	150	279					34	16		30
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	620	528	126	287	169	158	167	25	39	33	102	118
Gwendraeth estuary	150	125	75	115						2	52	79
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	404	187	116							28	214	195
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	336	318	171			86	32		14	14	174	328
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	133	47	85						104	15	107	94
CAERNARFON												
Y Foryd	91	112	c.110	118	36	36	7	2	12		40	30
Traeth Lafan	896	444	590	75	*c*.40	12	40	29	28	81	251	792
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog	370	128	74	39	30		14	15		17	428	421
Malltraeth Cob and estuary	182	16	11	51			0	0	5	100+	*c*.650	412
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	323	163	157						9	10	94	88
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	33	103	90	200	114	35	7	22	1		2	1
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	100	168	172	169	119	148	95	35	39	91	117	124
RSPB Point of Ayr	145	120	40	42	25	245	158	82	400	352	180	100
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	40	65	27	66	140	120	1010	1200	1000	20	33	100
Connah's Quay NR	32	53	50	200	100	500	530	25	500	90	1	2
Flint	25	10	21	23	12	53	30	232	242	102	12	7
Ffynnongroyw Bay	90	2	27			22	76	8	795	377	209	7
White Sands	11	85	118	54	38	123	468	160	34	7	4	69

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2984	3377
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	14%

Wetland Bird Survey: Shelduck in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Breeding: GWENT: at least nine broods at four sites; E.GLAMORGAN: broods on Rhymney est. and Ogmore est., possibly bred at nine other sites; GOWER: 23 pairs and three broods in the Burry Inlet; four pairs at two other sites; CARMARTHEN: 10 pairs bred at three sites, and 42 in two crèches at Kidwelly Quay on 14 July; PEMBROKE: 14 broods (average 6.9 chicks/pair) and 43 non-breeders in Milford Haven Waterway and Daugleddau est.; CEREDIGION: bred at three sites; MEIRIONNYDD: three broods at two sites, two pairs elsewhere; CAERNARFON: 15 broods at seven sites, including a crèche of 63 young at Aber Ogwen on 5 July; ANGLESEY: bred at five sites; DENBIGH: bred at Lleweni Watermeadows; FLINT: 148 young on the Clwyd est.

Non-breeding: numbers monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey are far higher than in the 1970s and, although there are short-term fluctuations, the population has shown only a slight decline in the last 30 years.

Counts >100 elsewhere: GWENT: 167 at St Brides Wentlooge on 15 Oct. and 16 Dec.; GOWER: 352 in Burry Inlet on 30 Jan.; 700+ at Dalton's Pt on 2 Feb.; 408 in Burry Inlet on 11 Feb., 531 on 12 March and 362 on 8 April; CARMARTHEN: 164 at Penrhyngwyn on 28 March; 329 at Machynys on 29 Nov. and 236 here on 21 Dec.; 202 at Llanelli Beach on 21 Dec.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* HWYADEN MANDARIN

Introduced (Category C). Localised breeding resident, but almost certainly under-recorded in core counties in eastern Wales.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	167	188
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

In eastern counties, records are now too numerous to merit individual mention in county reports, but the flock sizes indicate how abundant this species must be. Only 11 broods were reported, the average for 2005-18, but far lower than 32 in 2018, suggesting that breeding is largely unreported.

Breeding pairs: GWENT: at least seven breeding attempts, and five other pairs possibly bred; GOWER: brood on Tennant Canal, Cadoxton; BRECON: two pairs at Newbridge-on-Wye; one pair at Ffordd Fawr; RADNOR: pairs at Estyn and Newbridge-on-Wye in April; MONTGOMERY: broods at two sites; MEIRIONNYDD: two pairs on the R. Alwen at Maerdy; pair at Bod Petryal; pair at Hendwr near Llandrillo; four females with 20 young on R. Dylif on 8 July; CAERNARFON: 2-4 birds at Trefriw in March/April may indicate new breeding area; DENBIGH: broods at Lleweni Watermeadows and Froncysyllte, pairs at seven other sites.

Records from county bird reports where provided (*and from BirdTrack for others):

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT*	31	9	3	6	4	5	9		2	30	7	21
E. GLAMORGAN	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	7	6	6
GOWER	1	2	2	2	2	5	2	1	2	2	2	1
CARMARTHEN	2	7	2	5								
PEMBROKE					1	1				1	1	1
BRECON	5	6	17	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
RADNOR*			3		1							12
MONTGOMERY*	P	1	P	1		1		1				
MEIRIONNYDD			1	1			7	1				
CAERNARFON			2	4	1		1					
ANGLESEY					1			1				
DENBIGH	11	25	20	25	70	26	19	30	29	14	6	6
FLINT		2	5	4	3							

Notable counts: GWENT: 19 at Llandegfedd Res. on 25 Jan. and 21 here on 8 Dec.; RADNOR: 12 at Garregdu Res. on 31 Dec.; DENBIGH: 48 on Wynnstay Lake, Ruabon, on 26 May; 14 at Lleweni Watermeadows on 28 Oct.

GARGANEY *Spatula querquedula* HWYADEN ADDFAIN

Recorded in small numbers on passage and occasionally breeds (9-10 confirmed records, none since 1999). RBBP: five pairs in 2018. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	**2019**
No of BirdTrack records	**53**	**151**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

There were 25 records involving 38 birds (the total in the table below is higher as some birds occurred in more than one month and a male at Kenfig Rivermouth was recorded in East Glamorgan and Gower). Although there were four birds more than in 2018, it is the second-lowest lowest total since 2012. A pair was seen in suitable nesting habitat at Llangorse Sailing Club, BRECON, on several occasions between 3 and 17 April. Two pairs were at Kenfig Rivermouth, E.GLAMORGAN, from 28 March to 10 April and one male in the GOWER part of the site until 26 May. A male at Gnoll Pond, GOWER, was present from 14 May to the year-end.

	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT		2	2		1			
E.GLAMORGAN	5	4	2	1		1		
GOWER		1	3	1	1	1	2	3
CARMARTHEN		2	5	1	2		3	
PEMBROKE		1	2					
BRECON	1	2						
MEIRIONNYDD					1			
CAERNARFON						1		
ANGLESEY		1		1		1		
FLINT								1

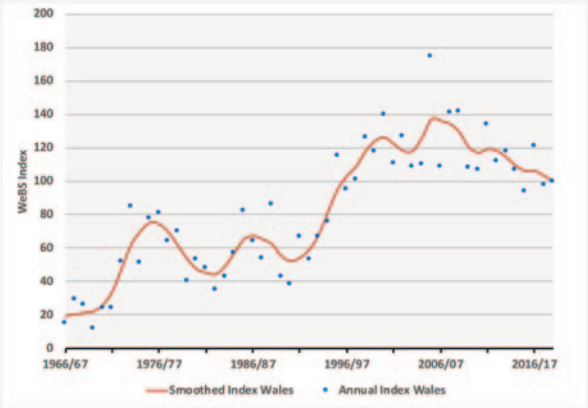
SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata* HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Locally common winter visitor/passage migrant and rare breeder. RBBP: six confirmed pairs (and 39 probable/possible) in 2018. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1172	1691
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	7%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: 20 pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands though only two broods seen. This was the lowest number of confirmed breeding pairs in Wales since 2011.

Wetland Bird Survey: Shoveler in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Non-breeding: the recent decline in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has continued, with numbers back to their 1996/97 level.

The number of sites with >50 was 20% higher than the 2005-18 mean:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Peterstone/St Brides	35	70		2					11	101	79	30
Newport Wetlands	60	189	*c*.300	*c*.50	24	10	6	23	23	42	102	*c*.60
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	97	10	6								25	40
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	143	41	30	20	3	6	4	26	47	11	14	24
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	49	58	17	6					3	5	36	27
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	93	197	205	118	16	4	3	0	9	30	81	39
Llyn Cefni	19	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	5	63	147	145
RSPB Cors Ddyga	70	20	35	35	14	2	5	3	0	20	40	45
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill		12	11	2	7				24		82	42
RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands	36	50	2	15	3				1			

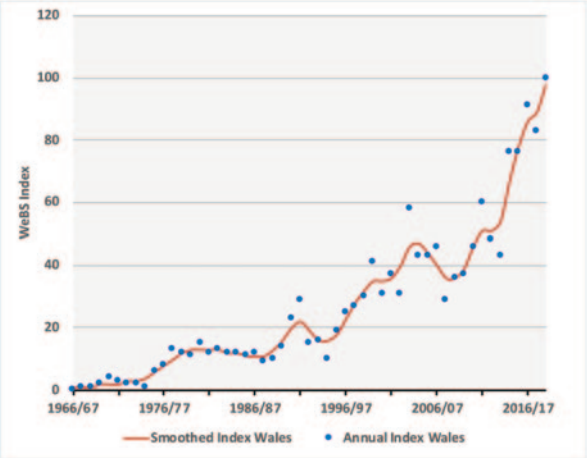
Counts of 50+ elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: 51 at Cardiff foreshore in Jan.; GOWER: 75 at Dalton's Pt on 21 Feb.; 112 at Salthouse Pt on 18 Nov. and 122 on 17 Dec.

GADWALL *Mareca strepera* HWYADEN LWYD

Regular but localised breeding bird since 1969 (estimated 50-100 pairs). A regular winter visitor to most counties. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1157	1797
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	8%

Wetland Bird Survey: Gadwall in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Breeding: 46 pairs, including spring counts of males on nature reserves, that will not all go on to breed. E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Kenfig Rivermouth for second consecutive year, only the fourth county record (also in Gower); GOWER: two broods at Staffl Haegr; CARMARTHEN: six pairs bred at Penclacwydd; BRECON: brood at Llangorse Lake in Aug. probably originated here; ANGLESEY: 32 pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: three broods at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: one pair at Shotton Paper Mill.

Non-breeding: as elsewhere in the UK, wintering Gadwalls in Wales have increased markedly since the late 1980s, and by 64% in just the last decade, but few sites hold large numbers.

Gadwall (Bob Garrett)

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	*c.*20	13	12	20	45	41	42	23	18	47	65	32
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	88*	77	63	31	32	18		4	11	25	52	54
E.GLAMORGAN/GOWER												
Kenfig rivermouth		1	15	43	31	20	14	7	14	4	29	3
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr	10		10	13	12	50	14	15	14	29		
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	83	89	58	64	74	71	73	91	192	123	83	63
Penrhyngwyn Pond			4			27		24	60	82	38	
Dinefwr Ponds	24	23	10									
Ffos-las	28	20	7							9	8	13
PEMBROKE												
South Hook Pools	26	15										6
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	62	79	41	18	4			2	19	20	11	19
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	20	39	63	59	51	20	11	46	58	28	34	10
Llyn Cefni	44	20	0	21	9	44	15	61	164	166	131	92
RSPB Cors Ddyga	10	28	13	4	35	2	0	0	1	6	6	15+
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	79	66	42	34	21	41	15	48	31	40	52	55
FLINT												
White Sands		26	4	8						28		
Shotwick/Burton Mere	83		1	2	2				8	28	47	36
Shotton Paper Mill		15	23	22	11	10	73		6		14	53
Shotton Steelworks	4	9	9	2	4	26	21	67	93	37	71	8

The number of sites holding more than 20 birds was 40% above than the 2005-18 average.
*county record.

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: CARMARTHEN: 34 at Trimsaran Pond on 2 Feb.; *c.*50 at Machynys GC on 19 June; ANGLESEY: 37 on Llyn Coron on 17 April.

WIGEON *Mareca penelope* CHWIWELL

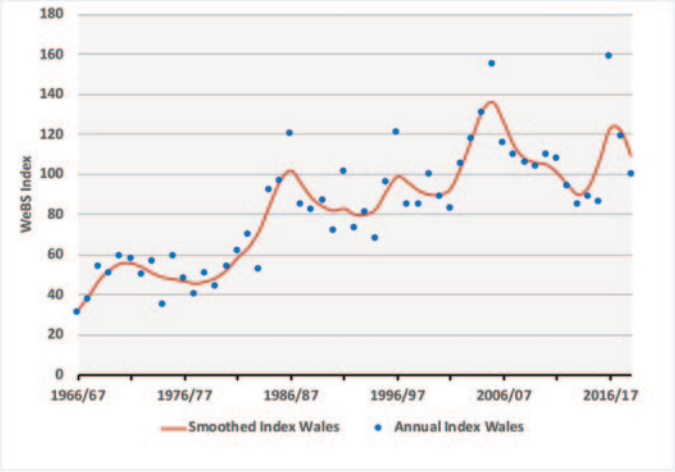
Common passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor, chiefly to coastal counties. Rare breeder: five confirmed records, but none since 1978 (RBBP: three possible pairs in 2018). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2021	2338
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	9%

Non-breeding: aside from the occasional influx, such as in 2005/06 and 2016/17, Wigeon numbers wintering in Wales have remained fairly stable this century, having increased during the latter part of the previous one.

Counts of 300+ not included in the table on page 33: GWENT: 480 at Redbarn and Boat Lane, Newport, on 7 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 300 around Llanengan on 3 March.

Wetland Bird Survey: Wigeon in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Wigeon (Bob Garrett)

The number of sites holding 300+ birds at least once during the year (below) was 15% above the 2005-18 average:

GWENT												
Black Rock	284	310	117						10	400	110	260
Newport Wetlands	534	465	395	5	6	9	6	14	24	128	446	336
Llandegfedd Res.	500	2								2	22	104
Nedern Valley	589	192	145	13						293	368	207
GOWER												
Whiteford	370	94	10						180	82	150	140
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth estuary	431	300	20					4	4	12	80	140
Tywi estuary	301		3							2	67	136
PEMBROKE												
Angle Bay	2500	202							25	120	500	1000
Cleddau estuary	4320	847	78						459	3542	4246	4769
Pembroke estuary	1056	93							410	3268	3100	2430
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	192	184	19						50	85	300	233
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	2308	703	95						610	1629	2038	1584
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	166	420	180	10	2			1	19	9	201	197
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	483	129	749						0	137	823	305
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1638	1053	51	4			1	2	*c.*230	1853	1355	1444
Foryd	790	530	145	3	1			2	*c.*600	2470	2480	840
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog	105	62	22	0	0		0	0		16	315	449
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	710	385	148						33	288	1295	634
RSPB Valley Wetlands	283	349	1	3	1	0	0	1	15	96	296	175
RSPB Cors Ddyga	400+	*c.*450	220	4	2	1	0	0	0	450	490	500
Malltraeth Cob & estuary	149	259	223	0			0	0	13	137	*c.*400	189
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	287	260	210	2			2	4		102	322	340
Point of Ayr	373	750	300							45	507	500
Connah's Quay NR	420	500	450	120	2	1	1	30	700	300	300	350
White Sands	18	400	4	18			1		2	19		164
RSPB Oakenholt	240	120	150	14	1			17	10	5	2000	4000

AMERICAN WIGEON *Mareca americana* CHWIWELL AMERICA

Rare visitor to Wales from North America. WBRC: 21 previous records.

CARMARTHEN: a male at Penclacwydd on 13-18 April was the third county record.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* HWYADEN WYLLT

Fairly common breeding resident (4600-11,000 pairs), abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Amber WeBS alert: -43% long-term. Wales Amber listed.

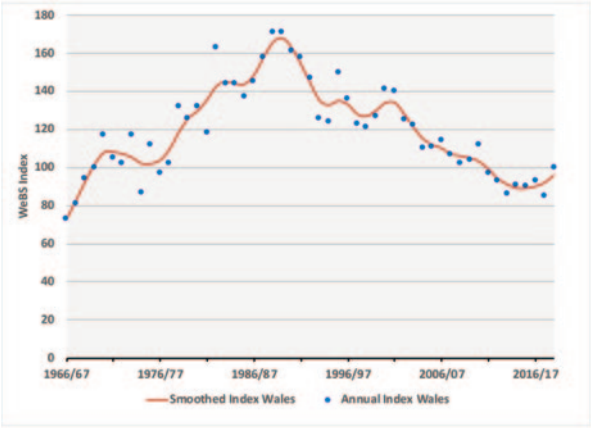
	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	7266	8575
% of BirdTrack lists	38%	37%

Breeding: the BBS index for Wales has declined by 21% since 1994, whereas the more representative Waterways Breeding Bird Survey for the UK shows no change over that period but a 16% decline over the last decade.

Non-breeding: the WeBS index for Wales fell by *c*.70% in the two decades from 1989/90 but appears to have stabilised in the last decade, at a level similar to that of the early 1970s.

The number of sites with a count of 200+ birds during the year (tabulated) remains below the 2005-18 average.

Wetland Bird Survey: Mallard in Wales,1966 - 2019



>200 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Peterstone Wentlooge			10	10		34			300	55		50
Newport Wetlands	132	87	30	27	43	75	250	163	165	170	193	166
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	80	66	47	12	57	101	181	210	104	80	69	22
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	359	273	161	169	175	230	173	325	315	402	141	401
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	248	159	100			205	128		266	306	372	425
CEREDIGION												
Cors Caron NNR	321	216	108									
Dyfi estuary	124	109	66						387	129	97	177
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	117	129	75	48			254		151	128	108	58
MEIRIONNYDD												
Llyn Tegid	42	32	23	25					83	219	86	53
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	80	21	15	32	97	132	90	210	320	133	245	46
Traeth Lafan	340	224	112	21	21	50+	205	267	222	230	226	240
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Cors Ddyga	119	175	49	30	92	46	15	46	85	311	181	121
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	23			4	60	100	3	200	24	11	30	38
Connah's Quay NR	136	60	20	19	337	300	280	240	140	100	80	50
White Sands	6	26	37	40	8	21	7	600	11	4		2

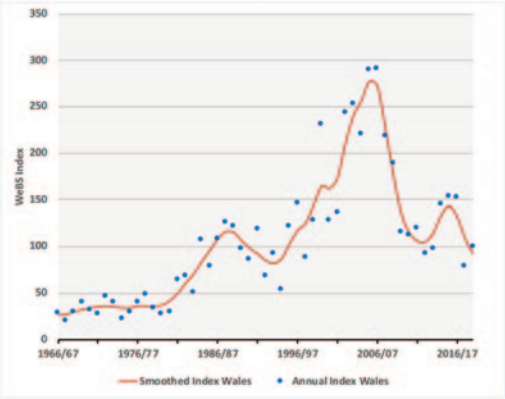
PINTAIL *Anas acuta* HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Locally abundant winter visitor to some counties. Red WeBS alert: -52% medium term, the highest of any UK country, but +42% in long-term. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	508	586
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding season: one at Porthmadog Cob, MEIRIONNYDD, on 22 June.

Wetland Bird Survey: Pintail in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has returned to early 1990s levels, *c*.67% lower than the peak in 2005/06. For the second consecutive year, the Dee estuary was the only site to hold more than 1000 birds. In Breconshire, Pintail is becoming a regular winter visitor, rather than a passage migrant as previously, although numbers are small, *c*.10 at Llangorse Lake in each winter period.

The number of sites holding 80+ birds at least once during the year was on a par with recent years:

>80 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*		*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT											
Peterstone Wentlooge	25		25	31				38	72		112
E.GLAMORGAN											
Cardiff foreshore	100	18								1	8
Rumney Great Wharf		12	35	21				1	16	110	85
Rhymney estuary	168	5	55	20						84	35
GOWER											
Penclawdd	196	218						4	33	31	102
Whiteford	65	20+						139	15		20+
CARMARTHEN											
Penclacwydd	230	322	8	4	2		2	5	2	300	17
Gwendraeth estuary	75	120	2				2	4	73	38	2
Machynys										141	197
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD											
Dyfi estuary	226	49							208	112	272
MEIRIONNYDD											
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	169	0	0					0	143	0	81
CAERNARFON											
Foryd	150	220						1	50	*c*.160	170
Traeth Lafan	145	5							23	59	61
ANGLESEY											
Traeth Melynog	282	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	107
Malltraeth Cob & estuary	366	141	4	0			0	0	8	150+	116+
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	217	140	8						2	9	99
FLINT											
Dee estuary (Wales)	250	1000	213	60			15	400	124	500	163

Counts of 80+ elsewhere: GWENT: 91 at Peterstone Gout on 17 Jan.; GOWER: min. 868 between Wernffrwd and Crofty on 29 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 210 at Traeth Melynog on 11 Jan.; *c.*130 on the Alaw est. on 17 Feb.

TEAL *Anas crecca* CORHWYADEN

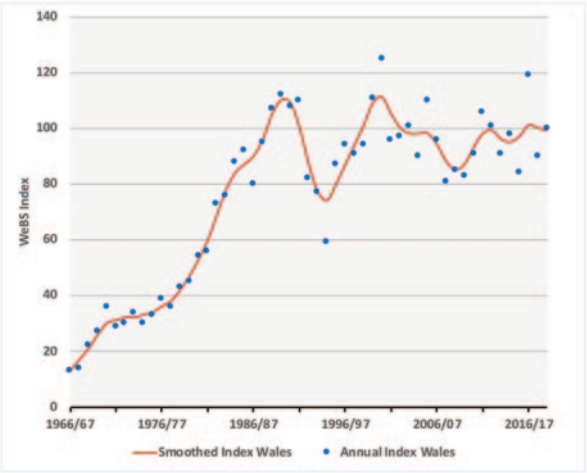
Small numbers (60-250 pairs) breed in the uplands, otherwise a widespread and fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2889	3240
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	13%

Breeding season, in suitable habitat: typical number of records: GOWER: bred at Kenfig River reedbed; PEMBROKE: bred at RSPB Ynys-hir and at Maesnant, Pumlumon; pairs at two other sites in May; BRECON: probably bred at Talybont Res.; possibly bred at Llyn Brianne; MEIRIONNYDD: pair each at Llyn Trawsfynydd and Tan yr Allt; ANGLESEY: 10 males at RSPB Valley Wetlands in April/May.

Non-breeding: Teal numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey have been fairly stable since the late 1980s, but an amber WeBS alert has been issued for the Dee estuary (-25%) over the long-term.

Wetland Bird Survey: Teal in Wales, 1966 - 2019



The number of sites recording counts >300 at least once during the year was below the 2005-18 average:

>300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	76	50	30	70	2	6	21	96	*c.*300	*c.*100	*c.*150	51
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr		69	183	45				117	160	356	41	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	612	38	33	17	3	5	18		48	15	19	59
Gwendraeth estuary	150	150	250	4				5	107	300	100	150
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	2251	2524	605						79	497	1020	1894
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	710	500	95						932	317	514	401
Cors Caron	599	362	145								40	
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	158	124	53	29	2	0	0	0	65	302	104	314
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	644	43	58						94	97	337	475
RSPB Cors Ddyga	136	123	47	24	4	20	0	79	37	400	625	290
FLINT												
Dee estuary	500	441	325	87	2	10	15	526	1031	600	1000	1033

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* CORHWYADEN ASGELLWERDD

Scarce visitor from North America; WBRC: 36 previous records.

GWENT: male at Peterstone Gout on 24-30 April.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

Naturalised species, breeding locally in England (Category C), but scarce in Wales.

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Parc Slip NR on 22 Dec. It is now eight years since there was more than a single record in Wales, despite the relatively close proximity of a naturalised breeding population.

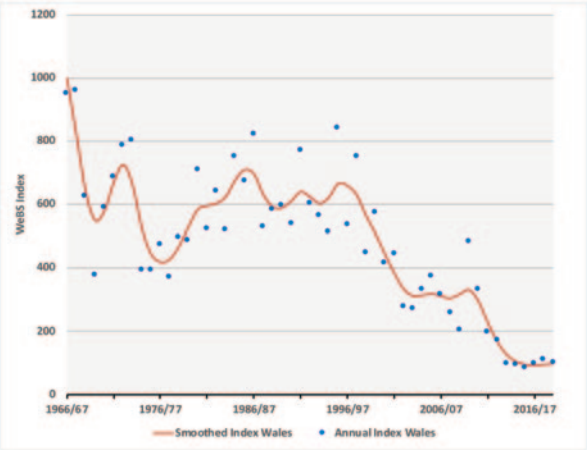
POCHARD *Aythya ferina* HWYADEN BENGOCH

A declining winter visitor, chiefly to the southern coastal counties, and passage migrant. Red WeBS alert: -68% short term, -76% medium and -89% long term, the highest of any UK country. Rare breeder (RBBP: seven confirmed pairs, 24 probable/possible pairs in 2018). Wales Red-listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	711	745
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%

Breeding: six confirmed pairs is on a par with recent years. CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: 14 pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands, with at least four broods seen.

Wetland Bird Survey: Pochard in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Non-breeding: Pochard numbers have fallen by 85% since 1995/96, though seem to have stabilised over the last few years. Western counties, in particular, now record very few (in 2019, there were three in Ceredigion, five in Pembrokeshire and seven in Meirionnydd). However, it is also scarce in some eastern counties: eight in Flintshire, two in Montgomeryshire, a maximum of 11 at Llangorse Lake, Breconshire, and there were only two counts of more than 10 birds in Denbighshire. Notable was a female on Bardsey, CAERNARFON, on 17-18 May that was the first island record for almost a decade.

Ten sites held >20 birds at least once during the year, compared to 21 sites in 2010.

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	40	15	1			1	6	7	4	11	16	32
Roath Park Lake	8	20	4							1	5	6
Cosmeston Lakes CP	32	65	7	1					2	3	6	5
Kenfig Pool	80	76	26						1	12	12	64
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	48							6			97	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	5	13	21	16	16	11	3	6		9	12	16
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	32	42	38	39	21	3	15	11	1	8	4	22
Llyn Cefni	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	35	54	11	15
Llyn Maelog	40	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: GWENT: 38 at Ynysyfro Res. on 9 Jan.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* HWYADEN LYGADWEN

Very rare visitor, usually in winter, from southeast Europe. WBRC: 37 records, including the returning bird below.

BRECON: Llangorse Lake from 6 Oct. to 7 Dec., also seen in RADNOR, at Llyn Heilyn and Llanbwchllyn; presumed to be the same bird seen in 2018.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* HWYADEN DORCHOG

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 45 previous records.

PEMBROKE: imm. male on Skokholm on 20 Nov., then at Marloes Mere from 27 Dec. into 2020; CEREDIGION: imm. male at Llyn Pendam and then Blaenmelidwr from 27 Nov. into 2020; MEIRIONNYDD: male at Llyn Caer-Euni from 16 Oct. to 17 Nov. and on Llyn Tegid on 17 Dec., presumed same as DENBIGH: male at Llyn Brân from 6 March to at least 22 July; this is presumed to be the same bird seen in Meirionnydd in autumn 2018.

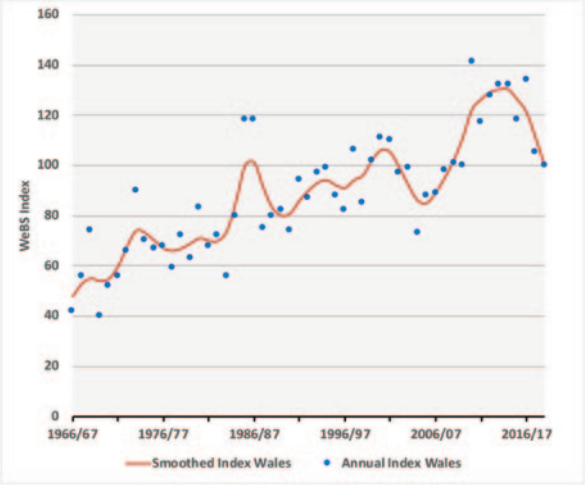
TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* HWYADEN GOPOG

Uncommon breeding species (765-1350 pairs). Fairly common winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**2211**	**2912**
% of BirdTrack lists	**11%**	**12%**

Breeding: GWENT: single broods at Parc Bryn Bach and Newport Wetlands Reserve; E.GLAMORGAN: single broods at four sites, possibly bred at four others; GOWER: single broods at four sites, probably bred at another, and possibly at two sites; CARMARTHEN: five pairs bred at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: bred at four sites and possibly at another three; MEIRIONNYDD: pair at Frongoch; birds at Llyn Trawsfynydd through breeding season; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB South Stack and RSPB Valley Wetlands, where eight broods were seen; DENBIGH: four pairs fledged 23 young at RSPB

Wetland Bird Survey: Tufted Duck in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Conwy; single brood at two other sites; FLINT: single broods at seven sites.

Non-breeding: the lowest numbers for a decade stem the long-term increase in Wales, which may be a foretaste of declines recorded in Northern Ireland, where the Wetland Bird Survey index has stabilised following a fall of 75% in just seven years from 2000/01.

The number of sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year was on a par with the 2005-18 average:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Bryn Bach Park	48	58	49	33	3	10	5	1	19	44	26	
Ynysyfro Res.	58	41	32		2				10	14		
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	60	52	47	19	5	4	4	1	8	24	62	24
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	34	37	58	59	15	33	165	147	58	28	36	221
Roath Park Lake	103	106	23	10	3	3	6	21	14	65	52	101
Bute East Dock	88	62	39	8	3					2	61	10
Cardiff Bay	282	207	96	60	15	23	31	13	64	103	309	470
Cosmeston Lakes CP	282	353	57	10	4	1	11	11	24	50	87	229
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	68							125		28	128	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	82	102	77	83	7	42	30	36	5	49	37	85
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	222	102	38	14	8	5	17	3	6	325	506*	454
Talybont Res.	70	15	2		2	8	27	34	5	41	10	14
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Llywenan	20	20	150						4	0	30	0
Llyn Cefni	150	125	c.50	21	11	28	8	15	75	222	178	193
RSPB Valley Wetlands	57	110	157	145	114	59	28	19	11	7	5	33
Llyn Maelog	123	76	53	4	0	5	0	1	6	12	34	44
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill		100	65	102	41	43	101		92		218	100
Shotwick Rifle Range	25	14	21	16	6	5	7	14	58	16	4	5

*county record

Counts of 50+ elsewhere: RADNOR: 67 at Llanbwchllyn on 18 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 53 on Llyn Trawsfynydd on 11 Feb.

Ringing: BRECON: a drake exhibiting a light-blue nasal saddle ('FCP') at Llangorse Lake on 10-16 Nov. had been marked at St Philbert de Grand Lieu, near Nantes in western France, as a 1CY bird on 18 Dec. 2018. Another bird marked at the same location was seen at Llangorse the previous winter.

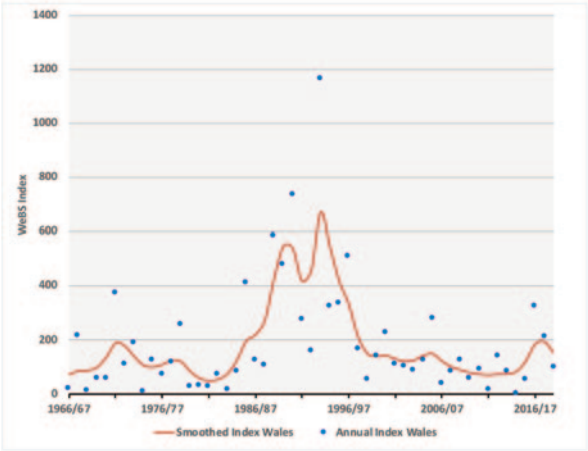
SCAUP *Aythya marila* HWYADEN BENDDU

Localised winter visitor, declining since the mid 1990s. Red WeBS alert: -54% long term. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	294	298
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Non-breeding: following a few years of higher counts, numbers were 25% below the 2005-18 average. There were 46 in Wales in January, with Anglesey's Inland Sea again holding the largest number. The second winter period was better in the Burry Inlet, Gower/Carmarthenshire.

Wetland Bird Survey: Scaup 1966 - 2019



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	4	1										
E.GLAMORGAN		2	3							1	1	5
GOWER	1										4	
CARMARTHEN		3								1	12	
PEMBROKE	2								1		1	1
CEREDIGION	4	6										
BRECON	2	3	2								1	1
MEIRIONNYDD									1			
CAERNARFON	2			1					1	1		
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	18	5	5							8	11	1
elsewhere		2							5	2		
FLINT	1	1								1	1	1

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* HWYADEN FWYTHBLU'R GOGLEDD

Extremely rare visitor from the Arctic. WBRC: one previous record in Wales (in 1989-90).

CEREDIGION: female at Ynyslas from 9 Nov. 2017 remained until 5 Feb. and was also seen in MEIRIONNYDD, at Aberdysynni on 5 May.

2018: the above individual was also in CAERNARFON, on the R. Dwyfor, on 9 June.

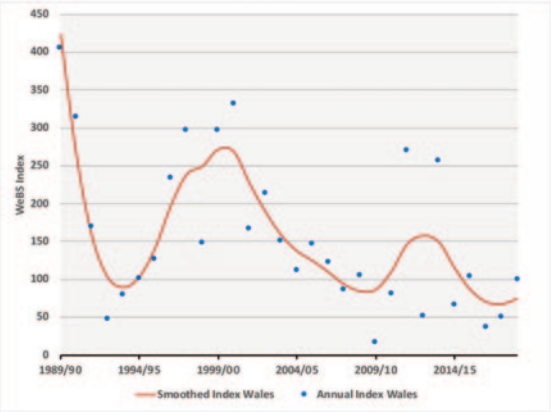
EIDER *Somateria mollissima* HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Localised winter visitor and scarce breeder (<20 pairs). Wintering numbers fell dramatically in the early 1990s and have fluctuated since. Red WeBS alert: -63% long term and -61% short-term (amber alert -47% medium term). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**205**	**197**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: CAERNARFON: min. three broods off Aber Ogwen; ANGLESEY: bred at Penmon/Puffin Island.

Wetland Bird Survey: Eider in Wales, 1989 - 2019



Non-breeding: the five-year mean WeBS count in the Burry Inlet is less than half the level in the 1980s, but 207 off Gower in February was the highest count here since November 1996. Farther north, counts are stable in the Menai Strait, but a count of 80 in August was the highest ever at the site.

Monthly maxima at the principal sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Whiteford	170+	207	11	17	60+		45		52	33	66	89
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater and coast	122	136		6	50	12		21	27		53	35
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	12	12	15				3			1	1	
Traeth Lafan	28	15	32	18	13	2	61	80	59	14		20+
ANGLESEY												
Penmon/Puffin island	1		37	70	*c.*20	*c.*45					1	

Other notable records: CARMARTHEN: *c.*40 off Pembrey Harbour on 17 April and 47 here on 1 May; 80 at Cefn Sidan on 5 May; 45 at Pembrey Harbour on 9 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 12 at Ynyslas on 25 March; ANGLESEY: five off Ynys Llanddwyn on 26 May; four off Cemlyn on 24 April and 30 Nov.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

Scarce trans-Atlantic visitor. WBRC: at least 66 records.

CAERNARFON: female at Black Rock Sands on 28 Jan.; male at Llanfairfechan from 30 April to 12 May; DENBIGH: male off Old Colwyn from 1 Dec. to 19 Jan. 2020.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Localised winter visitor, regular in small numbers to some coastal counties. Occasionally recorded on passage, but rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	25	58
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Decreases around the British coast and the Baltic Sea have led to the international population estimate being revised down by 55%, and the species' listing as Endangered by IUCN/BirdLife International. Numbers in Wales in 2019 were well below average.

All records, singles unless otherwise stated: PEMBROKE: two in Whitesands Bay on 28 Nov.; Skomer on 5 Nov.; Broad Haven on 17 Dec.; CEREDIGION: max. seven off Borth on 30 Jan., with one remaining to at least 4 May; Aberystwyth on 24 Oct.; Llansantffraed on 30 Oct.; five off Borth/Ynyslas from 30 Oct. to end of year; CAERNARFON: Llanfairfechan on 11-22 May; DENBIGH: three off Llanddulas on 30 Oct.; two off Old Colwyn on 1 Dec.; Kinmel Bay on 26 Dec.

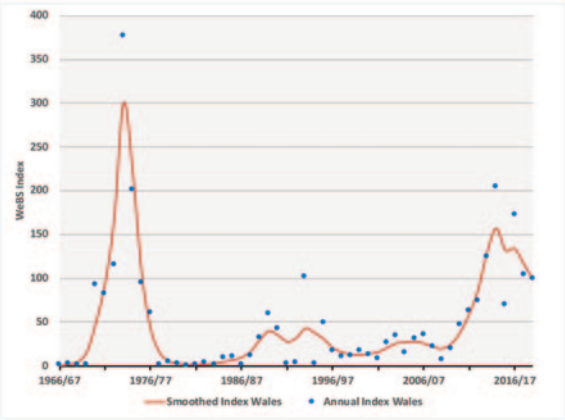
COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* MOR-HWYADEN DDU

Locally abundant coastal visitor, recorded all year round but mainly during the winter. Numbers increasing, although there was an 18% decline in Carmarthen Bay between 2009/10 and 2016/17. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	435	547
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index is one-third lower than it was just four years ago, but it should be remembered that land-based counts – especially those on a fixed day each month – vary in the number of birds that are detected. Aerial surveys, especially in Liverpool Bay, have shown huge numbers beyond the view of birders' telescopes. A survey by HiDef Aerial Surveying Ltd, contracted to Ørsted, in January 2019 estimated there to be 74,091 in the Welsh part of Liverpool Bay SPA, a far greater total than previous estimates. These accounted for 64% of the total in the whole cross-border SPA that month, but it is evident that there is significant mobility across the Bay. A similar survey of the SPA in February 2015 found 289,000 Common Scoters in the SPA, of which 13% were in Welsh waters.

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Scoter in Wales, 1966 - 2019



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Rhossili Bay	711	227	35	9							214	286
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan	150	100	75	200	500	200					300	500
Pendine/Telpyn Pt			1000	500						50		2500
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas	247	220	70	200	60		60	70	221	300	460	340
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Pt	250	1	56+	12				4	270	1+	4	5
Traeth Lafan	80	*c*.35	*c*.200	2500+	3000+	*c*.30		50+	3	*c*.8	14	300+
Tremadog Bay	*c*.15		110				1		5		92	
DENBIGH (see also text above)												
Rhos Pt-Towyn	1000	5000	3000	25		100	16	300	600	212	500	3000

Other notable records: GOWER: 174 at Broughton on 13 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 365 in St Bride's Bay in Dec.; CEREDIGION: 120 off New Quay on 25 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1500 off Morfa Harlech on 11 Jan.; 620 off Llandanwg on 21 Jan. and 300 here on 21 Aug.; 25 off Aberdysynni on 11 Aug.; ANGLESEY: seen off The Range in eight months, max. 30 in May; 54 off Newborough on 18 Nov.; DENBIGH: 12 on Llyn Aled on 29 June.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* HWYADEN GYNFFONHIR

Local winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**122**	**296**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

A slight increase on the total in 2018 and above the 2005-18 average. There has been a 65% decline in the Baltic Sea (since 1992/93) contributing to the species' global status as Vulnerable. Six on the Inland Sea, ANGLESEY, in January was the largest flock of the year.

Summary of records for each county:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN						1	2	2
GOWER								3
CARMARTHEN	3	3	3					
PEMBROKE							2	2
CEREDIGION						1		1
MEIRIONNYDD							1	1
CAERNARFON							1	2
ANGLESEY	8	2	2			2	2	3
DENBIGH	1	1						
FLINT	1	1	2	1			1	1

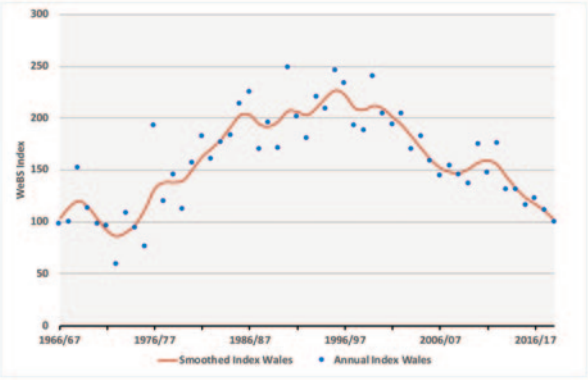
GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

Localised winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber WeBS alerts are: -30% short term, -26% medium and -45% long-term. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	590	776
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Non-breeding: the downward trend of the Wetland Bird Survey index, which started in the late 1990s, continues with a 56% decline since 1995/96. The index is at its lowest since 1974/75.

Wetland Bird Survey: Goldeneye in Wales, 1966 - 2019



The number of sites holding 10+ birds at least once during the year is 24% below the 2005-18 average:

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN									
Ogmore estuary	26	30	11					12	15
Kenfig Pool	4	4	10	1				1	4
Rhaslas Pond	10	18	16	8		12		9	
GOWER									
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	14							13	
BRECON									
Llangorse Lake	49	61	22	1			47	40	44
Talybont Res.	20	15	6	15			2	2	4
CAERNARFON									
Foryd	12	10	7						
Traeth Lafan	27	40	32	5					
ANGLESEY									
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	59	17	8						0
RSPB Valley Wetlands	15	30	9	7		0	0	0	0
Llyn Maelog	12	19	3	0		0	0	0	0
Llyn Cefni	5	13	10	0		0	0	0	0

Counts of 10+ elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 12 at Llys y fran Res. in Jan.

SMEW *Mergullus albellus* LLEIAN WEN

Scarce and declining winter visitor, subject to cold weather influxes from mainland Europe. WBRC: c.360 records during 1967-2018. Wales Amber listed.

GWENT: female at Llanbadoc from 27 Nov. 2018 to 6 Feb. 2019, assumed same at Llandegfedd Res. on 8-9 Dec. 2019; male at Llandegfedd Res. on 2, 16 and 26 Dec. and at Llanbadoc on 22 and 27 Dec., to at least 1 Feb. 2020; CARMARTHEN: imm. male at Penclacwydd from 24 Feb. to 14 April; CEREDIGION: redhead at RSPB Ynys-hir on 8-19 Dec.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

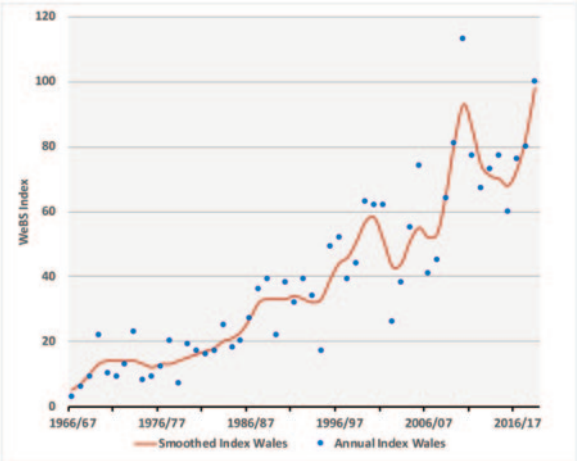
Breeds on most Welsh rivers, the population is estimated at 685 pairs but a more robust population estimate should be generated by a NRW-funded survey in 2021. Most Goosanders wintering in Wales are thought to be British breeders. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1336	1525
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

Coverage of breeding pairs is far from complete, making it difficult to assess the impact of licences issued by Natural Resources Wales to shoot Goosanders on some rivers. Around 30 broods were recorded, plus a crèche of 40 in Carmarthenshire.

Breeding: GWENT: two broods at Gobion, R. Usk; GOWER: one brood on the R.Tawe and three on the R.Neath; adults present at four other sites; CARMARTHEN: crèche of 40 fledged juveniles at Nantgaredig on 24 July; CEREDIGION: brood of three large chicks on the R. Ystwyth; BRECON: five broods on the R. Elan/Wye, four on the R. Usk and one on the R. Tawe; RADNOR: brood at Bridgehill on 23 June; MONTGOMERY: two broods including a crèche of 22 young at Vyrnwy caravan park on 3 June; MEIRIONNYDD: single broods on the R. Dee at Corwen, Broadwater, Maentwrog Levels and Ynys Saltings; CAERNARFON: single pairs bred at Llyn Padarn and Dwyfor est.; present at five other sites; FLINT: two broods on the Clwyd est., one of which was on the early date of 24 April.

Wetland Bird Survey: Goosander in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index, having levelled out during the last decade, increased again in 2018/19.

The number of sites holding 20+ birds at least once during the year was the highest since 2010:

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Bryn Bach Park	14	12	10								57	12
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	10	20	8	3			3		2	6	13	8
Caerphilly Castle	3	30	3								26	51
Rhaslas Pond	35	30	4	4					14	6	8	4
Wilderness Porthcawl	33	4	1							1	1	20
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	65	56	15	4					0	3	4	16
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	1		2	1	3	5	2	14	20	2	1	1
Traeth Lafan	6	3	2	11	12	12	102	30	4	113	6	1
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Traffwll	10		26	1								9
RSPB Valley Wetlands	13	29	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	12
FLINT												
Rhyl Brickworks	11	9	13	5						4	21	26

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: 25 at Pysgodlyn Mawr on 27 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 42 at Glandyfi on 23 Aug.; RADNOR: 22 at Llandrindod Lake on 14 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 27 at Glandyfi on 3 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 33 at Aberlleiniog on 12 July were part of Traeth Lafan flock; DENBIGH: 21 at Penycae, Tainant, on 24 Sept.

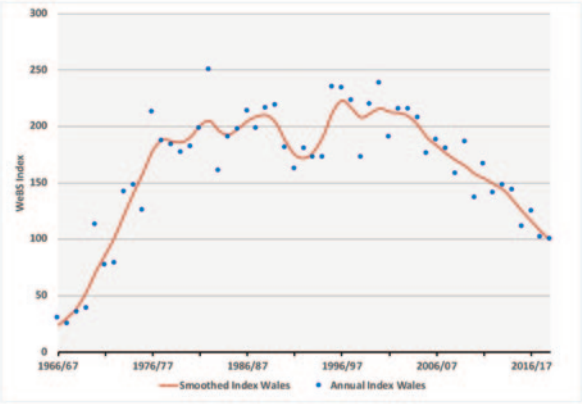
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Localised winter visitor, mainly to the North Wales coast. Amber WeBS alerts: -26% short-term, -37% medium and -34% long-term. Small numbers breed, chiefly in the northwest – RBBP: three confirmed pairs and 18 probable/possible in 2018. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**812**	**940**
% of BirdTrack lists	**4%**	**4%**

Breeding season (under-recorded): MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at Pont Croesor; 7-10 pairs at four other sites; CAERNARFON: pair bred on the Seiont est.; ANGLESEY: pair bred at Traeth Dulas and at Cemlyn.

Wetland Bird Survey: Red-breasted Merganser in Wales, 1966 - 2019



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales is at its lowest since 1972/73, and less than half its level during the 1990s. An Amber WeBS alert (-31% medium term and -28% long term) has been issued for Traeth Lafan/Conwy Bay SPA.

The number of sites holding 20+ at least once during the year was below the 2005-18 average:

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	12	3	22	11	1	5	4	1	16	12	7	7
Traeth Lafan	12	29	30	56	32	23	22	43	21	33	20	10
Penrhyn Bay	9	30	20								2	18
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	43	24	95						33	16	43	52
Traeth Melynog	1	6	5	21	0		0	0		11	7	1

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: CARMARTHEN: 21 between Telpyn Pt and Amroth on 27 March; ANGLESEY: 30 off Beaumaris on 25 July; 30+ at Lleiniog on 18 Aug.; DENBIGH: 22 on Marine Lake, Rhyl, on 17 Jan.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* TROELLWR MAWR

Localised summer visitor (280 males in 2004, now probably >500), mainly dependent on clearfell areas in forestry plantations. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**61**	**68**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Nightjars are probably under-recorded, as birders tend to visit a small number of traditional sites. Until there is a new national survey, population trends are not accurately known.

Churring males (max. per site) unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: at six sites: Coed Cae Aberaman, Craig Abercwmboi, Pontycymer, Old Castle Down (N. of St Brides Major, on 14 Aug.) and Llanwonno, where max. of four was seen; also one over the M4 near Pant-y-Pwllau; CARMARTHEN: two at Blaenduad Plantation; three at Pen-crug-melyn Plantation; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir (Foel Fawr), Cross Inn Forest, Cors Fochno and near Joppa; 4-5 at Talybont Forest; two at Pant Mawr forestry; MONTGOMERY: two at Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: five at Abergynolwyn Forest; five birds at Gwaith Powdwr; alsoat Rhyd, Rhiwbryfdir and Cambrian View (Penrhyndeudraeth); CAERNARFON: two at Cors Bodgynydd; one at Hafna Mine; DENBIGH: one at Pen y Gaer; 2-9 birds at Llandegla Res.; FLINT: two birds at Nercwys Mountain.

Ringing: DENBIGH: nestling ringed on 4 Aug. 2018 in Clocaenog Forest was recovered 182km away at Thorne Moors, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, on 13 June 2019.

ALPINE SWIFT *Tachymarptis melba* GWENNOL DDU'R ALPAU

Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 44 previous records.

CEREDIGION: one at Aberystwyth on 23 Sept.

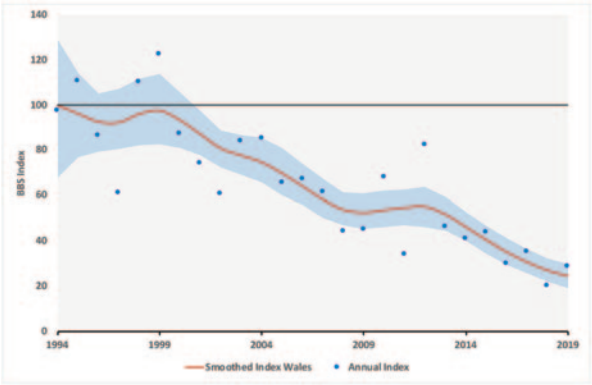
SWIFT *Apus apus* GWENNOL DDU

Localised and declining summer visitor (4100 pairs). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**1522**	**1678**
% of BirdTrack lists	**7%**	**6%**

Although well recorded on passage and in suitable habitat at the right time of year, breeding records for this largely urban species are generally sparse. More complete recording of breeding locations would help with the local protection of the species. The Breeding Bird Survey index shows a sustained decline (-72%) since 1994,

Breeding Bird Survey: Swift in Wales, 1994 - 2019



the greatest of any species in Wales.

Breeding: GWENT: min. 3 AON in Abergavenny; several nests behind Shire Hall, Monmouth; E.GLAMORGAN: 71 AON (Cardiff Swift Survey), with an additional 10 visiting nest sites elsewhere in the city; 22 pairs/AON at six other localities, including 29 juveniles from 11 pairs in Maesteg; GOWER: bred at Lewes Castle, Port Talbot town centre, Tai Canol Cwmavon, Briton Ferry, Neath town centre, and Pontrhydyfen; CARMARTHEN: 25 around St Margaret's Church, Pendine, on 23 July included several family parties; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from five locations; CEREDIGION: breeding numbers appeared to be low but were widely reported. Five pairs at Talybont and a few pairs in Bow St, Eglwysfach, Aberystwyth, Aberporth, Llanfair Clydogau, Bettws Bledrws, Henllan, Glynarthen, Talsarn and

Swifts (Gary Eisenhauer)

Lampeter; BRECON: breeding suspected or confirmed at 28 locations, including Brecon, Builth Wells, and Crickhowell; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 nests in Llan Ffestiniog; two nests at Ysgol y Moelwyn, Blaenau Ffestiniog; 10 nests in Dolgellau; six nests in Corris Uchaf; three nests in Penrhyndeudraeth; one nest in Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: 3-4 nests in Penrhynside; pair nested at Llandudno Junction but failed; ANGLESEY: three nests at the Bull Hotel, Llangefni; DENBIGH: bred at Llangollen Town Hall and Rhewl; probably bred at St Garmon's Well (Llandegla); possibly bred at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, Llanrwst and Betws y Coed; FLINT: bred on Halkyn village hall.

2018: E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Swift survey recorded 88 AON/pairs, including one pair on Flat Holm Island/Ynys Echni, although this was not confirmed by the island's warden. 29 AON/pairs at 13 other locations.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**7 April**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**		25 Aug.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	17 April	Cardiff Bay		12 Sept.	Bargoed
GOWER	30 April	Kenfig saltmarsh		9 Sept.	Port Eynon
CARMARTHEN	1 May	Kidwelly		8 Sept.	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	30 April	Pembroke Mill Ponds		27 Aug.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	30 April	Llanilar			
BRECON	27 April	Llangorse Lake		2 Sept.	Brecon
MONTGOMERY	30 April	Machynlleth & Llanfair Caereinion		5 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	16 April	Ynysfor		22 Sept.	Broadwater
CAERNARFON	2 May	Bangor		10 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	30 April	Llyn Traffwll		4 Sept.	Holyhead & Llyn Traffwll
DENBIGH	28 April	RSPB Conwy		**25 Sept.**	**RSPB Conwy**
FLINT	1 May	Rhuddlan & Connah's Quay		1 Sept.	Connah's Quay

More large counts (80+) than in 2018, but fewer than historically: GWENT: 100 over Caldicot on 25 June; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Cardiff Bay on 5 June, 800 here on 11th and 300 on 12th; 80+ at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 12 June; 100+ at Pyle on 25 June; 100 at Ely (Cardiff) on 29 June; 80 at Heol-y-Mynydd on 21 July; GOWER: 100+ over Lletty Mawr on 18 Aug.; 200+ over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 22 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 450 at Llangloffan Fen on 22 July; CEREDIGION: 160 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 19 July; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 around Llanelltyd on 23 July; FLINT: 81 at Greenfield Valley on 30 May; 80 at Connah's Quay on 17 June.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus* COBLYN GWELW

Very rare visitor from southern Europe, usually in late autumn. WBRC: three previous records.

2018. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 10 Nov.; PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 4 Nov.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* COG

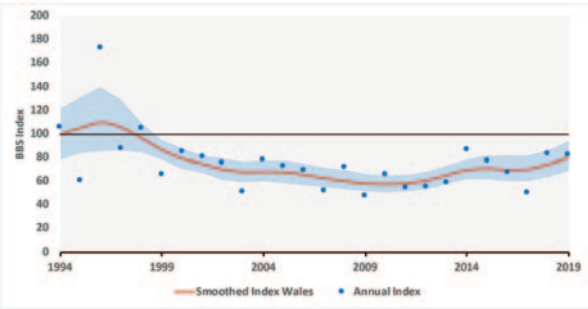
Localised summer visitor (1900 breeding 'pairs') but now scarce in lowlands except on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**577**	**585**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**2%**

Cuckoos had another better year than the recent average. The Breeding Bird Survey index is creeping back towards its 1994 level, but still remains 20% below the baseline.

Territorial males: E.GLAMORGAN: many reported, with breeding possible/probable at three locations; GOWER: two males at Lliw Res. on 29 April and 18 May; singles at a further 44 localities; CARMARTHEN: 32 locations (*cf*. 25 in 2018), with juveniles at two sites (one had a Meadow Pipit perched on its head whilst being fed); PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at six locations; reported from a further 26 sites; CEREDIGION: 14 sites with many records from Cors Fochno, RSPB Ynys-hir, Foel Fawr, Cwm Einion and the Llyfnant valley; BRECON: two at Buckland Hill, Cwm Claisfer, Penwyllt, Rhiw (Llanwrthwl) and Gorllwyn; four in the Pantyllyn/Banc-y-celyn area on 6 May; three males at Forest Lodge (Beacons) on 24 May;

Breeding Bird Survey: Cuckoo in Wales, 1994 - 2019



MEIRIONNYDD: 67 locations, but few records from the northeast; CAERNARFON: 1-3 birds at 36 sites; four in Nant Ffrancon on 10 May and in Nant Peris on 20 May, five at Bethesda on 16 May and six at Crimpiau on 13 May; ANGLESEY: 10 sites; DENBIGH: 44 locations, including 2-3 birds at 12 sites; FLINT: 1-2 birds at nine locations.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	18 April	Newport Wetlands		7 July	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	6 April	Llangynwyd		**20 Sept.**	**Coed Taf Fawr**
GOWER	12 April	Clydach		30 June	Lliw Res.
CARMARTHEN	14 April	Ffrwd Fen		18 July	Mynydd Pencarreg
PEMBROKE	4 April	Valley Fach & Croesgoch		25 July	Plumstone Mountain
CEREDIGION	15 April	RSPB Ynys-hir			
BRECON	**2 April**	**Mynydd Illtud**		4 Sept.	Llangasty meadows
RADNOR	20 April	Painscastle		19 Aug.	Maelinydd
MONTGOMERY	21 April	Cors Dyfi		21 June	Twmpath Melyn nr. Talerddig
MEIRIONNYDD	19 April	Precipice Walk & Ynysfor		28 Aug.	Cwm Cywarch, Dinas Mawddwy
CAERNARFON	18 April	Nant Gwynant		29 July	Four locations
ANGLESEY	23 April	Cemlyn		10 June	Penrhos CP
DENBIGH	19 April	Llyn Brenig		24 June	Rhewl
FLINT	21 April	Pontblyddyn		28 June	Connah's Quay

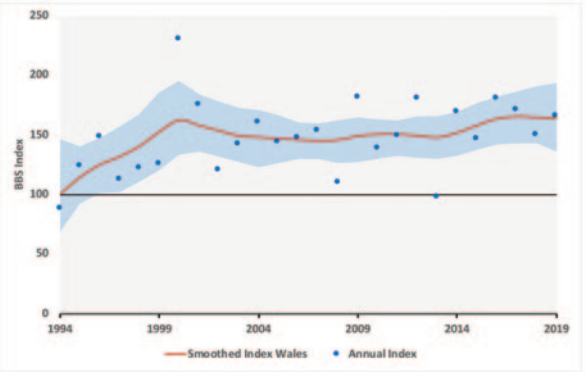
FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* COLOMEN DDOF

Fairly common resident (41,000 breeding pairs) in towns and on some sea cliffs (Category C). Greatly under-recorded. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**2841**	**3226**
% of BirdTrack lists	**16%**	**15%**

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 44% higher than in 1994, but has increased only slightly since 2000.

Breeding Bird Survey: Feral Pigeon in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large counts (100+): E.GLAMORGAN: 109-150 at Canton, Cardiff, between Jan. and May; 100 in Cardiff city centre in May; 175 in Bute Park in Nov.; GOWER: *c.*120 at Brynmill Park in Oct.; *c.*80-120 in Port Talbot town centre; *c.*100 at Knab Rock on 1 Aug.; BRECON: up to 130 resident in Brecon town; DENBIGH: 100 at Horton's Nose NR on 10 Feb.; FLINT: 125 at Queensferry on 30 Jan.; 118 at R. Clwyd saltmarsh, Rhyl, in Feb., 127 here in Aug., 145 in Oct., 122 in Nov. and 105 in Dec.

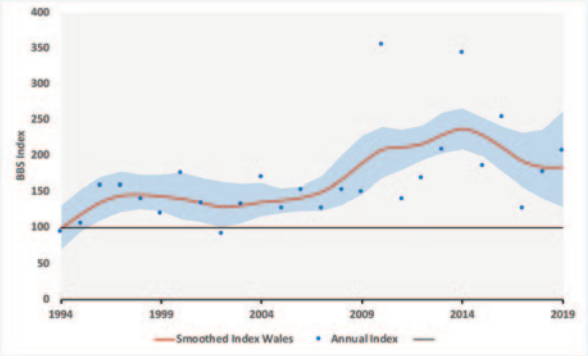
STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* COLOMEN WYLLT

Fairly common resident (21,500 territories), mostly in lowland areas. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	692	901
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is rather 'noisy', with big annual variations. 2019 seems to have been better than the long-term average and the smoothed index is 54% higher than in 1994.

Breeding Bird Survey: Stock Dove in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large counts (15+): GWENT: 24 near Osbaston on 11 Sept.; 25 at Magor Pill on 20 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Slade Farm, St Brides Major, on 23 April; 27 at Lanlay Meadows/Peterston Moors on 15 Sept.; 20 at Lavernock Pt on 9 Oct.; GOWER: 68 at Margam Moors on 11 March; 18 at Rhossili on 20 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 18 at Clochyrie Farm, Felinfoel, on 6 Oct.; CEREDIGION: up to 50 at Ynys Tachwedd in Feb. and 29 here in March; 45 at Denmark Farm in March; 15 at Tregaron in Nov.; BRECON: 30 at Llanhamlach on 23 Jan.; 100 at Pytindu Farm, Llanddew, on 1 Feb.; 14-16 at Llanwrthwl in Jan. to March; 50 at Coygen Farm, Lower Chapel, on 30 Nov.; FLINT: 15 at Brynford on 31 May; 30-140 at Connah's Quay between 1 Jan. and 9 Feb. (peak on 4 Feb.) and 20-26 here during Sept.-Dec. (peak on 17 Dec.).

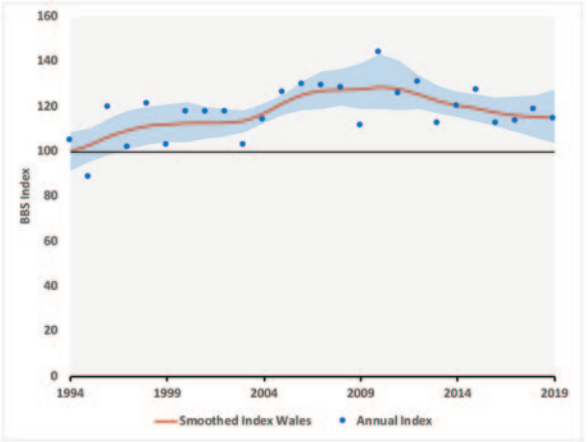
WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* YSGUTHAN

Abundant breeding species (295,000 pairs), passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	10449	12060
% of BirdTrack lists	57%	54%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has flattened out in the last decade, but remains 12% above its 1994 level.

Breeding Bird Survey: Woodpigeon in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Non-breeding: once again, there were high counts over East Glamorgan but far fewer than in the previous two autumns. Large flocks (300+): GWENT: 10 reports between 22 Oct. and 16 Nov., all counts under 1100 except for three at Portskewett, 46,877 on 4 Nov., 53,108 on 5th and 108,378 on 6th; E.GLAMORGAN: 19 reports during 19-30 Oct., but only three counts over 10,000, max. 54,000 over Cardiff Bay and 62,000 over Leckwith, Cardiff, on 28 Oct.; GOWER: *c.*600 over Graig Fawr, Margam, on 28 Oct.; 420+ over Gnoll Park on 8 Nov.; BRECON: 300 over Beacons Park, Brecon, on 18 Nov.; FLINT: 300 at Connah's Quay on 26 Jan.

Ringing: ANGLESEY: one found "long

dead" at Llangefni on 16 July 2019 had been ringed on the Calf of Man on 4 April 2017.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* TURTUR

Extinct as a breeding species following a long decline in the late 20th century; now a scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	11	22
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

After last year's record low of five, the 19 in 2019 is more encouraging, but still historically low. There were several winter/very early spring records in 2019, as there have been over recent years.

All records single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Rhoose garden on 7-16 March; GOWER: West Cliff, Southgate, on 11 May; Scurlage on 22 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 8 May and 9 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Camrose garden on 1 Jan.; two on Skokholm on 14 May and singles here on 19 May and 24 Aug.; Higney, St Davids, on 6 Oct.; Merryborough, Dale, on 17 Oct.; Dale Fort on 23 Oct.; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, one on 14-15 May, three on 16-17 May and another on 20 May; ANGLESEY: Holyhead on 14 May; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 23 June.

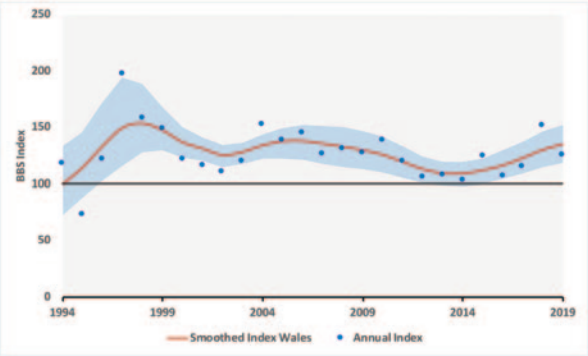
COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* TURTUR DORCHOG

Fairly common resident (87,000 breeding pairs), having first appeared in Wales in 1959. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	3471	3562
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	16%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 13% higher than in 1994, and has made up two-thirds of the loss that occurred up to 2014.

Breeding Bird Survey: Collared Dove in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Counts of 25+: GWENT: 45 near Osbaston on 11 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 29 at Marcross on 24 Nov.; GOWER: 38 at Salthouse Pt on 22 Sep.; ANGLESEY: 26 at Holyhead on 10 Aug.

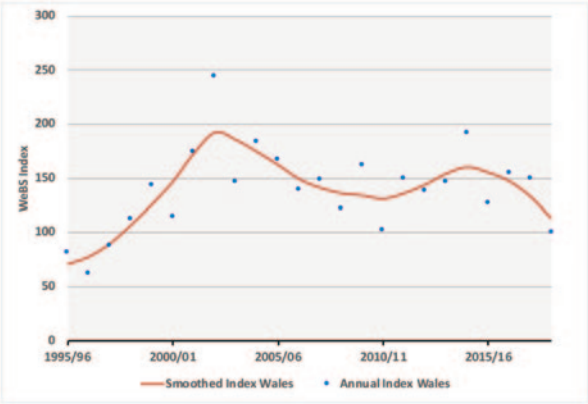
WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* RHEGEN Y DWR

Scarce breeder (215 territories), more commonly recorded as a passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	667	629
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	2%

Breeding season (April-July) presence unless more certain evidence provided: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve; E.GLAMORGAN: four sites, including recently fledged young at one on 23 May; GOWER: Oxwich NNR, Tir John

Wetland Bird Survey: Water Rail in Wales, 1995 - 2019



Pond, Pant y Sais Fen and R. Kenfig reedbeds; PEMBROKE: Marloes Mere, Skokholm, Teifi Marshes and Treleddyn Farm; CEREDIGION: Aberleri on 25 May; BRECON: 1-3 at Llangorse Lake; juveniles heard in Tŷ Mawr reedbeds, Llangasty, on 17 July and 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga, Rhydwyn reedbed (2) and Cors Goch.

Non-breeding: although the Wetland Bird Survey does not census Water Rails so well as song-playback surveys, it suggests long-term stability in the population, not withstanding the occasional dip as in 2018/19.

Maximum autumn and winter concentrations (5+):

>5 birds		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd*	2	4	6	2			1	1	1	5	9	5
ANGLESEY	RSPB Cors Ddyga	5								1	2	25	8
ANGLESEY	RSPB Valley Wetlands	3	2	1	2						3	8	2
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy	12*	1	1	1		1			1	1	2	1

* surveyed using playback response.

Other counts of 5+ birds: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve on 20 Jan., six here on 21 Feb., 15 Oct. and 18 Nov.; two on Flat Holm on 21 Jan. and one on 10 and 12 Feb. were unusual; CEREDIGION: five at Cors Fochno in Jan.; five at Teifi est. in Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: five at Mochras on 10 Nov.; DENBIGH: six at a private site near Glan Conwy (playback response).

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* RHEGEN FRAITH

Scarce visitor and occasional breeder. WBRC: 122 records since 1967. Wales Green listed.

PEMBROKE: one at Teifi Marshes on 22-23 Sept.

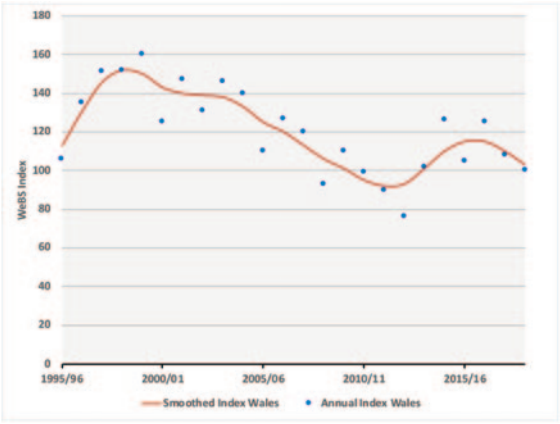
MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* IAR DDWR

Fairly common breeding resident (14,500 territories) and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**3891**	**4576**
% of BirdTrack lists	**21%**	**20%**

Non-breeding: the decline in numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey during the 15 years to 2012/13 appears to have been stemmed, but the index remains 31% below its peak.

Wetland Bird Survey: Moorhen in Wales, 1995 - 2019



Monthly max. at the main wintering sites, with 40+ at least once:

>40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Monmouth-Brecon Canal*	57	58	44		23	31				26	82	
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay**	40	31	23	3	13	12	12	52	52	47	46	3
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	35	39	22	25	24	16	18	56	37	28	13	77
PEMBROKE												
Pembroke Mill Ponds	38	28	40		5				74		49	40
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	6	10	5				16	20	15	12	5	4
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Cefni	2	2	1	2	0	1	10	10	29	34	15	23

* 14 Locks to Pontywaun ** includes the wetlands reserve and Hamadryad Park

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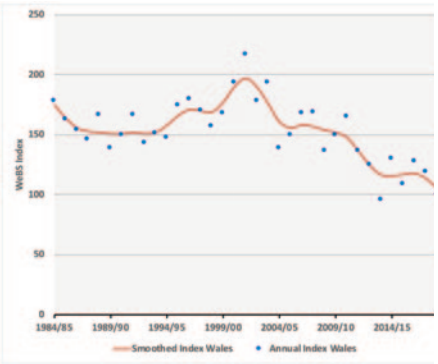
COOT *Fulica atra* CWTIAR

Localised breeding resident (1600 pairs) and winter visitor, widespread but declining in many areas. Amber WeBS alert: -27% medium term. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**3186**	**3739**
% of BirdTrack lists	**17%**	**16%**

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has declined by 46% since 2001/02, which may be going under the radar of many birders.

Wetland Bird Survey: Coot in Wales, 1995 - 2019



Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (100+ at least once):

>100 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Ynysyfro Res.	79	62	10		15				97	116		
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	383	171	143	5	110	138	202	391	486	451	423	64
R. Ely - Leckwith	65	35	24	24	9	18	20	40	45	39	40	31
Roath Park Lake	183	105	64	53	66	81	152	164	105	138	157	202
Kenfig Pool	200	84	67	13	8	10	15	18	3	55	22	21
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	445	304	153	36	35	51	126	125	124	349	304	590
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Llywenan	20	10	100						0	20	50	20
Llyn Cefni	*c.*250	72	*c.*40	22	22	43	87	170	337	446	489	456
RSPB Valley Wetlands	126	166	77	51	42	51	52	63	46	32	5	14

CRANE *Grus grus* GARAN

Rare visitor from Europe. WBRC: 47 previous records (excluding reintroduced birds). RBBP: one breeding pair, another non-breeding pair in 2017.

Breeding season: one pair bred and two females in southeast Wales, originating from the Great Crane Project reintroduction scheme in Somerset. GWENT: 2-3 on the Gwent Levels from at least 15 Feb. to 14 July; pair bred but chicks were predated within a few days of hatching; second female here on 17-26 June; E.GLAMORGAN: female from 2018 breeding pair present at Vale of Glamorgan site from 8 March (male paired with a new female at WWT Slimbridge in 2019); second female here on 6 April.

Presumed vagrant: CEREDIGION: one at RSPB Ynys-hir on 23-28 April.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* GWYACH FACH

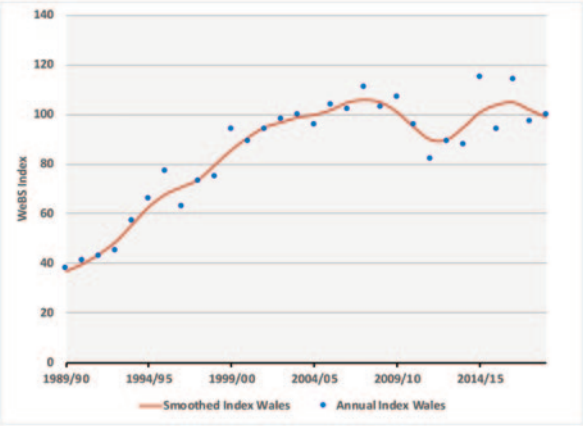
Localised breeder (240-640 pairs), scarce in land-locked counties. Winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**2479**	**3004**
% of BirdTrack lists	**12%**	**12%**

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: pairs bred at six sites: Abercwmboi Lake, Cosmeston Lakes CP, Kenfig saltmarsh, Parc Cwm Dare, Parc Slip NR and Parc Taf Bargoed, and nest building at Pont-y-Gwaith NR; GOWER: bred at Swansea Vale, Tir John Pond, Gnoll Park, Borrow Pits Resolven, Craig y Llyn Fach, Eglwys Nunydd Res., Morfa Tip and R. Kenfig reedbeds; CARMARTHEN: bred at five sites; CEREDIGION: probably/bred at RSPB Ynys-hir, Denmark Farm, Llanerchaeron, Llyn Nant yr Arian, Nanteos pool and Llyn Mynydd Gorddu; ANGLESEY: bred at Llyn Cefni, Llyn Rhos-ddu and RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: bred at RSPB Conwy (six pairs fledged seven young), Lleweni Watermeadows and Llanddulas, and possibly at Cae Llwyd Res.; FLINT: bred at Hendy Ponds, Gronant, Coed Du Quarry and Connah's Quay NR.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales (page 56) has stabilised in the last 15 years following a long-term increase.

Wetland Bird Survey: Little Grebe in Wales, 1989 - 2019



Counts of 10+ birds not included in the table below: GOWER: 13 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. in March; CAERNARFON: 10+ on Llyn Crafnant on 28 Dec.; FLINT: 48 at Shotwick Lake on 20 Jan., 87 here on 15 Sept. and counts of 16, 33 and 38 in Oct.-Dec.; 10-16 at Connah's Quay between 15 Sept. and 11 Nov., with the peak on 18 Oct.; 10 at Flint on 19 Oct.; 11 at Ddol Res. on 15 Oct.; 10 at R. Clwyd saltmarsh on 25 Dec.

Max. monthly counts from sites holding 10 or more at least once:

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Ynysyfro Res.	19	14	3		3				20	26		
Newport Wetlands	3	5	5	5	3	1	13	2	2	3	2	2
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay incl. R.Taff	45	29	11	2	2		1	3	19	36	35	2
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	11	9	6	4	7	8	18	22	17	16	21	15
Parc Taf, Bargoed	21	22	3		2	3	6	11	15	17	20	19
Abercwmboi Lakes	15	19	2	2	2				1	4	8	4
Ogmore estuary	17	15	7						3	8	10	9
Parc Cwm Dare	7	8	5				13	7	13	14	8	10
Roath Park Lake	5	5						3		4	6	11
East Aberthaw Lagoon	11	8	3	1				3	3	1	8	7
CARMARTHEN												
Sandy Water Park	10	6	5	2		1	11	13	8	7	3	3
Penclacwydd	12	6	5	5	5	5	7	8	10	3	3	1
Power Station Pond	8	9	9	3	4	5	8	10	12	8	8	6
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	32	7	8			2	1		9	13	31	39
Pembroke Millponds	16	13	4		2			10	25		20	18
Gann estuary	16	8	4					3	4	7	12	4
BRECON												
Talybont Res.	10	8	7			2	2	16	13	16	15	27
MEIRIONNYDD												
Tal y llyn	4	11	2	0	0	0	0			7	8	5
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Cefni	17	9	5	2	5	7	26	30	45	29	25	24
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	10	5	1						6	4	5	10
RSPB Valley Wetlands	7	4	12	12	4	3	2	0	9	2	13	2
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	8	3	11	5	5	6	9	19	15	9	15	9

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* GWYACH YDDFGOCH

Scarce winter visitor. WBRC: 227+ records since 1988. Wales Amber listed.

Singles: BRECON: Llangorse Lake from 16 Feb. to 4 March; CAERNARFON: Bangor harbour on 3-12 Feb. and 10-11 March.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

Localised breeding species (270 pairs). More coastal in winter and recorded on passage from several counties. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**1898**	**2326**
% of BirdTrack lists	**9%**	**9%**

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 10 locations, including 12 pairs in Cardiff Bay; GOWER: six pairs at Eglwys Nunydd Res.; six displayed at Whiteford; one pair at Fendrod Lake; BRECON: three broods each fledged two young at Llangorse Lake, the most successful breeding season for many years; two pairs at Talybont Res., from which one pair fledged two; pair fledged two young at Beacons Res.; pair at Crai Res. may have failed; MONTGOMERY: bred at Lake Vyrnwy and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at Llyn Trawsfynydd; territory on Llyn Arenig Fawr but outcome unknown; territory at Tal y llyn; CAERNARFON: pairs at four sites; ANGLESEY: bred at four sites and present at four others; DENBIGH: bred at Llyn Brân, Gors Maen Llwyd, Pont-y-Clogwyn and Llyn Brenig.

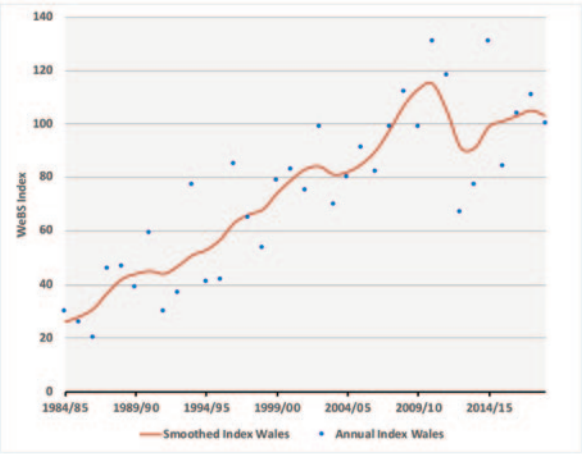
Max. monthly counts from sites holding 20 or more at least once:

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	6	8	18	14		15	33		46	35	10	30
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay*	41	55	60	35	54	88	88	103	83	51	47	7
R. Ely – Leckwith to Penarth	18	15	17	22	5	10	9	5	7	16	20	10
GOWER												
Blackpill	9	10	1	9	6	2	1	9	15	4	5	3
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	26					38+		21			7	
CARMARTHEN												
Pwll/Burry Port		7	8	7				8	16	31	14	12
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	16	12	18	18	11		11	11	15*	20	14	8
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	86	*c*.70	*c*.150	51	3+	1	34	53	148	36	52	31
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	5	11						1	4		14	21
Llys-y-Fran Res.	22										4	
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	14	13	27	36	36	15	20	21	14	4	6	5
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	83	9	12						49	25	25	22

*some counts include Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve.

Other counts of 20+ birds: GOWER: 83 at Blackpill on 29 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 35 in Holyhead Bay on 16 Nov. and 62 here on 19 Dec.

Wetland Bird Survey: Great Crested Grebe in Wales, 1984 - 2019



Non-breeding: the annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales varies but the smoothed trend has remained reasonably stable for the last decade.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG

Local winter visitor, chiefly to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**229**	**275**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Main sites that regularly hold Slavonian Grebes:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Burry Inlet	3	2	6									4
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3	8	7	4						1	1	2

Other records, singles unless otherwise stated:

First winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool in Nov./Dec. 2018 remained until 25 March 2019; CARMARTHEN: three at Cefn Padrig on 4 March; MEIRIONNYDD: four off Morfa Harlech on 3 Jan.; Harlech beach on 11 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Conwy est. on 24 Jan.; Borth-y-Gest on 28 Jan.; Penrhyn Bay on 5 Feb. and Rhos Pt on 20 Feb. (also in DENBIGH); Criccieth on 7 March; Penmaenmawr on 23 March; ANGLESEY: Benllech on 1 Jan.; Penmon on 25 Feb.; Newborough on 7 March; Alaw est. on 30 March.

Second winter period: GWENT: Red Pools, Nash, from 25 Nov. to 4 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool on 10-13 Nov.; GOWER: Rhossili on 18 Nov.; CEREDIGION: two off Aberystwyth on 30 Nov.; BRECON: two on Llangorse Lake on 11 Dec.; ANGLESEY: two at Cemlyn on 30 Oct.; Holyhead on 18 Nov.; Alaw est. on 15-17 Dec.; Llyn Llygeirian on 16 Dec.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* GWYACH YDDFDDU

Local, but declining, winter visitor to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Formerly bred on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	66	72
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay from Dec. 2018 to 1 Jan.; Kenfig Pool from 23 Feb., joined by a second bird on 19 March and both remained until 22 March; PEMBROKE: Angle Bay on 27 Jan.; Penberi Pond, St Davids, from 23 Nov. to 3 Dec.; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 12 Nov.; two off Llangasty on 15 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Bychan on 23 Jan.; ANGLESEY: Llyn Coron on 9 Feb.; Llyn Maelog on 15 Sept.; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 16 Dec.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* RHEDWR Y MOELYDD

Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 46 previous records.

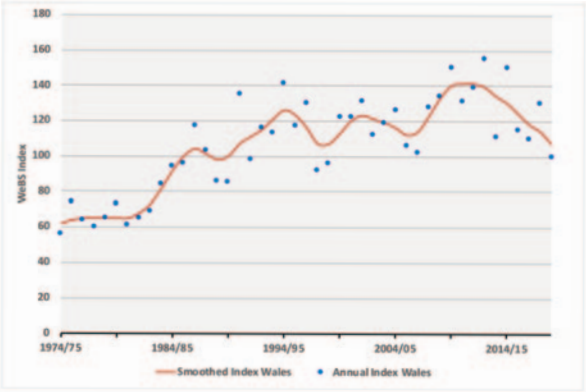
Singles: PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 16 June; MONTGOMERY: Caersws on 25-26 July, the first record for the county.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* PIODEN Y MOR

Localised breeding species and abundant winter visitor to all coastal areas of Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	4599	5407
% of BirdTrack lists	23%	23%

Wetland Bird Survey: Oystercatcher in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: pair probably bred at Cardiff Bay; possibly bred at Sker and Sully playing fields but no outcome reported; GOWER: probably bred at Castell-du; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at eight locations, including 42 pairs on Skomer; CEREDIGION: bred at New Quay, near the Leri est. and at RSPB Ynys-hir (three pairs); BRECON: single pair bred at Ffordd Fawr; attempted to breed on Llangorse Common/Crannog and at Llangasty Pt but no records of young; MONTGOMERY: bred at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas; small numbers presumed to have bred on shingle along the R. Severn, including at Dolydd Hafren and on the R. Dyfi near Machynlleth; MEIRIONNYDD: possibly bred on riverbank at Gwerclas and at Gwnodl Bach, Cynwyd, at Penmaneucha, Mawddach, beside Llyn Tegid, at Penllyn fields, Tywyn, and at Aberdysynni; CAERNARFON: 72 pairs nested on Bardsey (from sample of 39 nests, average clutch size was 2.38 and nest productivity 0.40 fledged young/pair); one pair confirmed and two possibly bred at Morfa Madryn; single pairs possibly bred near Dwyfor est. and at Morfa Abererch; ANGLESEY: bred at Soldier's Pt, RSPB Valley Wetlands, Llanlleiana, Cemlyn and RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: bred at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay; two pairs at RSPB Conwy (both failed); possibly bred at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: bred at Shotton and Gronant.

Non-breeding: the lowest Wetland Bird Survey value (page 59) since 1991/92 means the index has fallen by 24% in just seven years. An Amber WeBS alert (-28%) has been issued for the Dee estuary SPA.

Monthly max. for sites holding 1000+ at least once during the year:

>1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Whiteford	2000	3500	3400	42	300	800	720	4750	2500	1500	2500	3200
Llanrhidian/Wernffrwd		786					45	1150				
Salthouse Pt-Crofty		550		30			820	870	1500	950		1420
Dalton's Pt/Penclawdd	450	642	71				140	1450	490	357	377	477
Rhossili-Mewslade	1050	460	75					84	512	53	1032	532
Blackpill	1900	1970	698	590	152	200	853	1080	1563	840	735	
R. Neath/Crymlyn Burrows	800	400	300	130	75	153	104	674	1100	1000	700	844
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	1100	2965	512		170			400		3276	2528	5011
Taf estuary	400	56	13						27		154	1000
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	982	1121	34						370	490	754	902
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	4525	4282	1864	1015	c.150	120+	250+	1655	3971	2408	4783	4662
FLINT												
Ffynnongroyw	800	510	800	1000		1500	1200	2064	2500	1200	4450	4300
Point of Ayr	6000	4000	2000	2000	540	16	12	*c.*2000	6000	6000	5000	2000
Connah's Quay NR/Oakenholt	800	90	370	48	65	40	100	1200	2000	2500	380	500

Other counts >1,000: CARMARTHEN: 1100 at Pembrey Harbour on 18 March.

Oystercatcher (Cameron Sharp)

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* CAMBIG

Breeds in Gwent and increasing in eastern Flintshire, elsewhere a scarce visitor. RBBP: 39 nests at one site in 2018. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	169	462
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	2%

Breeding: GWENT: 49 breeding pairs at Newport Wetlands. The highest count here was 132 birds on 17 April.

Other records, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: two at Kenfig Pool on 31 March and probably same at Ogmore est. on 6 April; Llanishen Res. on 16 June (first site record and only the second inland county record); CARMARTHEN: at Penclacwydd on 16-17 Feb., 16-24 April, 23-24 Nov. and 28 Dec., and two on 29 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Sprinkle Pill on 1-7 Jan.; four at Landshipping on 21 Nov.; Rhos/Hook from 24 Nov. to 20 Dec.; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 18 April; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: Glandyfi on 6 March; ANGLESEY: Brynteg on 4 Aug.; FLINT: 13 at White Sands on 14 June; three at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 15 Sept. with singles here on 24 Feb. and 17 Nov.

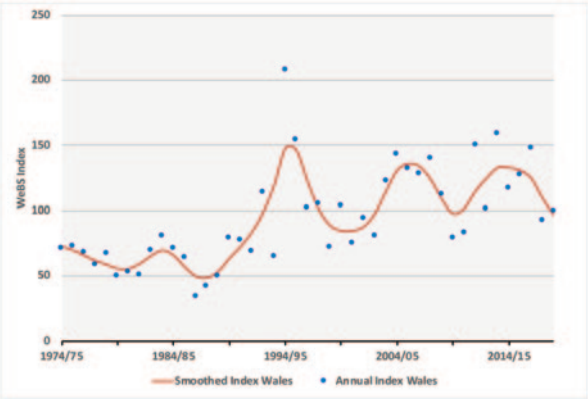
LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* CORNCHWIGLEN

Rapidly declining breeder – almost extinct in many counties. Also a winter visitor, principally in coastal areas and especially during hard weather to the east. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2385	2691
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	11%

Breeding: encouragingly, evidence was reported from 49 sites (*cf*. 36 in 2018, including Gwent from which no information was received this year). These had a productive year, albeit slightly less than 2018. The average fledging rate was 0.83 young/nest (244 young from 294 nests), above the 0.7 required to sustain a stable population. The majority (71%) of breeding attempts were on RSPB nature reserves, where key fields are now protected by fences to minimise predation by mammals.

Wetland Bird Survey: Lapwing in Wales, 1974 - 2019



E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Kenfig NNR (two chicks but uncertain whether fledged); nest at Rumney Great Wharf (outcome unknown); possibly bred at Gilfach, Llangynwyd, Crack Hill, Dowlais Top, Gelligaer Common, Llanishen/Lisvane Res., Parc Slip NR, and Rhaslas Pond; GOWER: 8+ pairs bred at old BP site, Baglan Bay; *c*.5 pairs probably bred in fenced area at Whiteford; three pairs probably bred at R. Kenfig saltmarsh; two pairs probably bred at Llandarcy; pair probably bred on newly created saltmarsh at Cwm Ivy; CARMARTHEN: min. 27 chicks fledged from 23 nests at Penclacwydd; three young fledged from eight nests at Cross Hands; CEREDIGION: 38 pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir, fledging 24 young (*cf*. 40 pairs in 2018); BRECON: two young from one pair fledged at Llangasty Pt; two males and three females at Llangatwg Common, Garnlydan, made three breeding attempts and fledged several chicks; pair at Cathedine Fawr Farm with chicks; at Llangorse, two pairs at Rushy Field and one pair at Sailing Club Meadow (probably failed); two pairs at Tŷ Gwyn Farm, Pennorth; two pairs at Wern Farm, Llanddew; males displayed at Pencaemain, Trebinshwm Farm - Bwlch, and at Felincamlais Pool, Mynydd Illtud; no post-breeding or late-summer moult flocks reported; MONTGOMERY: no breeding season records; MEIRIONNYDD: two pairs bred at Ynys saltings, Dyfi, at least one of which had two small

chicks on 7 July; two pairs possibly bred at Tŷ Cerrig and Tyndrain-Trawsfynydd, and one NE of Carrog; five on territory around Llyn y Warin, Morfa Harlech; CAERNARFON: 30 pairs at RSPB Morfa Dinlle fledged five young; 51 adults and 22 fledglings at Morfa Madryn NR; ANGLESEY: 13 pairs fledged nine young at RSPB Valley Wetlands, the highest breeding population recorded here; 71 pairs fledged 78 young at RSPB Cors Ddyga; possibly bred at Cors Bodeilio and Bodorgan; DENBIGH: bred at Fenn's Moss; possibly bred at Rhewl and two sites near Llandegla; FLINT: 57 pairs fledged 71 young on Welsh side of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands; two pairs possibly bred at Hendy Ponds; single pairs possibly bred at Airbus Fields, Upper Nant-y-ffrith, Talacre beach pools and by the Clwyd est. near Rhuddlan.

Non-breeding: the sharp decline in the Lapwing nesting population is not reflected in numbers visiting from elsewhere in Europe outside the breeding season, which has cycled around a mean since the early 1990s (graph on page 61).

Regular counts at the main wintering areas, holding 500+ at least once:

>500 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT								
Newport Wetlands Reserve	1200	500	80		60+	12	*c*.300	500+
GOWER								
Llanrhidian Marsh	2800	1100			18	113	300	30
Upper Loughor estuary	135	1100					65	51
CARMARTHEN								
Gwendraeth estuary	1500	100			3	150	500	500
Tywi estuary	791					11	280	177
Taf estuary	70	500					100	300
PEMBROKE								
Cleddau estuary	5373	3447			1	2	1572	1209
Castlemartin Corse	1200	2000				753	730	1500
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION								
Teifi estuary	1000	1500						460
CEREDIGION								
Dyfi estuary	1628	1000	53			645	1192	774
MEIRIONNYDD								
Broadwater	450	4			67	600	2	254
CAERNARFON								
Foryd/Morfa Dinlle	*c*.900	380			56		140	64
ANGLESEY								
Malltraeth Cob and estuary	*c*.3000	1200	0		0	100+		52
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	1987	133	0		0	2	715	982
RSPB Valley Wetlands	1219	542	30		43	192	650	1606
RSPB Cors Ddyga	480	920	106		*c*.40	78	1000	400
DENBIGH								
Kinmel Bay	3000	*c*.1100			1+	4	*c*.200	1+
FLINT								
Clwyd estuary	2488	1624	5		178	227	400	1522
Point of Ayr	1000	56	2			98	700	1000
Connah’s Quay NR	500	540	40		140	300	500	1000

Other large flocks (500+): GWENT: 1300 at St Brides on 9 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 1000 at Tŷ Gwyn pools in Jan.; ANGLESEY: 1700 at Llyn Coron on 25 Jan.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* CWTIAD AUR

Declining breeding species (36 pairs in 2008), found chiefly on upland plateaux in Denbighshire, Radnorshire, Ceredigion and Breconshire. Localised in winter, usually in large flocks. Amber WeBS alert: -39% medium term (but +76% long term). Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	510	432
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding: the information below totals four confirmed, five probable and four possible pairs, lower than that received in 2018, but achieving even this level of detail requires dedicated effort that is hard to achieve across the whole breeding range. The breeding record at Waun Wen, EAST GLAMORGAN, was the first for the recording area, and almost certainly the most southerly in Britain.

E.GLAMORGAN: pair at Waun Wen fledged two, possibly three young; BRECON: two pairs bred on Mynyddau Llangynidr/Llangatwg, one had a second clutch after a first brood failure, second pair fledged two chicks after eggs from same nest had been predated; in the northern section of the Black Mountains, two territories held a calling male and a separate pair in May; 3-4 territories in the central section, one with a nest of four eggs and several empty nest-scrapes; single bird on Pen Cerrig Calch in the southern section in April; DENBIGH: single pairs possibly bred on Ruabon Mountain, Esclusham Mountain and at Moel Seisiog, Mynydd Hiraethog.

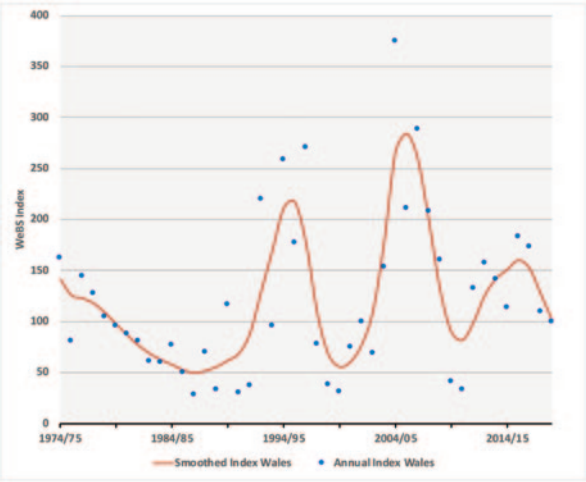
Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey does not adequately cover the farmland on which many Golden Plovers roost, so caution is required with this index for Wales, but with wide annual variations there is no overall long-term trend in wintering numbers.

Other large winter flocks (400+) in coastal counties: GOWER: *c.*500 at Overton on 2 Feb.; several hundred on north slope of Cefn Bryn on 3 April; 600 at Whiteford Pt on 8 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 2000 at Longhouse

Records here are rather incomplete but monthly max. at major wintering areas (holding 400 at least once):

>400 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN									
Sker area	700	*c.*130	254	200		63	200	211	300
GOWER									
Weobley	2500	1200	1000				700	600	600
Llanrhidian	5000	2200	1200						
CARMARTHEN									
Gwendraeth estuary	3000						1200	3000	4000
Taf estuary	1000	2000	300					1100	1000
PEMBROKE									
Castlemartin Corse	50							250	1000
Cleddau estuary	2320	2480	350				470	4000	1550
Llanrhian	600						800		2500
MEIRIONNYDD									
Broadwater	400	450					240	200+	
CAERNARFON									
Morfa Dinlle/Foryd	*c.*800	4	180			1	90	460	*c.*140
Traeth Crugan/Penrhos			300+				510		
Llanengan	650						500+		
ANGLESEY									
Cemlyn	1+	1+	400	*c.*400		110	323	*c.*100	
Malltraeth Cob & estuary	*c.*2000	500		20				1	1

Wetland Bird Survey: Golden Plover in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Farm, Abercastle, on 5 Jan.; 700 at Craig-lwyd on 11 Jan.; 1000 at Carningli on 22 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 1100 at Ynys Tachwedd in Feb. and 450 here in Oct.; 500 at Teifi est. on 13 Feb.; 500 at Post Bach on 1 March; 600 at Llanrhystud in Oct. and 500 in Nov.

Inland sites holding 70+ birds at least once: E. GLAMORGAN: *c.*285 at Pen y Foel on 27 Jan.; 77 at Werfa on 29 Oct.; 150 at Cefn Eglwysilan on 4 Nov.; GOWER: *c.*110 over Mynydd Margam on 20 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 90 on Garreg Fraith on 27 March; BRECON: 100 at Mynydd Bwlch-y-groes (Epynt) on 26 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 150 on the Ceri Ridgeway on 15 Feb.

		Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	Mynydd Bach, Maesteg		*c.*130	52			*c.*120		
E.GLAMORGAN	Mynydd Eglwysilan						96	106	109
BRECON	Llandefalle Hill		30		336		260		
BRECON	Mynydd Illtud	70	9	62	97		160	144	190

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* CORGWTIAD AUR AMERICA

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 20 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 25-28 May.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* CWTIAD LLWYD

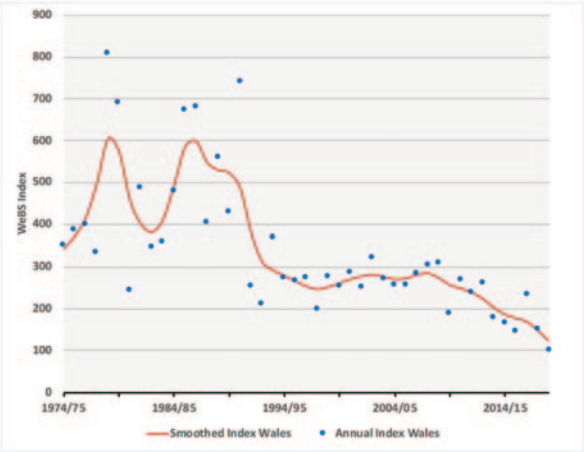
Localised winter visitor to Welsh estuaries, and spring and autumn migrant. Red WeBS alert: -57% long term and amber (-34%) short term. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**239**	**306**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**1%**

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has reached its lowest point since it was created in the mid 1970s. Numbers declined significantly in the 1990s and have continued to fall, by 55% in just the last 10 years. On the Burry Inlet SPA, red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long (-75%) and medium term (61%) and an amber alert (-41%) for the short term. On the Dee estuary SPA, an amber WeBS alert (-37%) has been issued for the long-term.

Large counts (40+) not included in the table on page 65: GOWER: 126+ at Salthouse Pt on 1 Jan.; 162 at Weobley-Wernffrwd on 25 Feb.; 60 at Upper Loughor est. on 23 March.

Wetland Bird Survey: Grey Plover in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Monthly max. at the sites holding counts of 40+ at least once:

>40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	15	*c*.20		3	*c*.15	1		2	8	68	63	7
GOWER												
Whiteford	50	21							4	12	71	8
PEMBROKE												
Freshwater West	40	80									18	
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	127	85	11						3	5	124	95
Traeth Melynog	53	0	0	0	1		0	0		2	109	10
FLINT												
Gronant	15				3					*c*.50	*c*.50	64
Point of Ayr	42	14								3	20	1

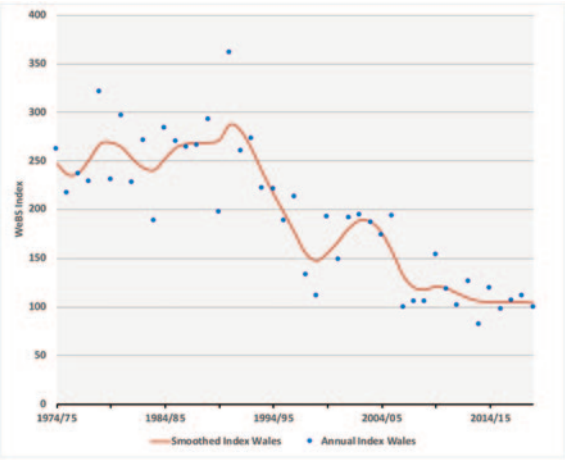
RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* CWTIAD TORCHOG

Scarce breeder (254 pairs in 2007, but records suggest a decline since). Passage migrant and winter visitor to all coastal areas. Red WeBS alert: -62% long-term. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**1288**	**1452**
% of BirdTrack lists	**6%**	**6%**

Breeding: 20 pairs confirmed and another 15 pairs probably or possibly bred, which is similar to 2018 assuming there was no change in Gwent. E.GLAMORGAN: pair fledged two in the Sker area; GOWER: three pairs bred at Whiteford Sands; three pairs bred at Crymlyn Burrows Beach; one pair bred at Baglan Burrows; two pairs probably bred at Port Eynon; one pair possibly bred at Whiteford; two pairs possibly bred at Margam Sands; CEREDIGION: possibly bred at Borth and Ynyslas; MEIRIONNYDD: two pairs possibly bred on Penllyn fields; three at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 1 June may indicate an inland nesting attempt; records from seven other sites; CAERNARFON: two pairs at Morfa Madryn; pair with chicks at Foryd; pair prepared a scrape at Rhos Pt; pair at Morfa Abererch; ANGLESEY: bred at Cemlyn, Soldier's Pt, The Range and Traeth Lligwy; DENBIGH: bred at Horton's Nose-Kinmel Bay (outcome unknown); pair possibly bred at Llyn Brenig;

Wetland Bird Survey: Ringed Plover in Wales, 1974 - 2019



FLINT: at least five pairs bred at Gronant; bred at Point of Ayr.

Non-breeding: although widespread around the Welsh coast, the Wetland Bird Survey index has fallen by 64% since its peak in 1990/91, and this appears to continue albeit at a lower rate.

Monthly max. at sites holding 100+ birds at least once during the year:

>100 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	24	5	*c.*20	*c.*26	200+	100+	20	*c.*200	*c.*200	5	30	3
GOWER												
Whiteford	20	30	23	8	9	4	46	200	80	53	50	28
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey	64	17	4	2	3		38	250	118	46		
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas	42			250	400			340	110	38		
Llanrhystud/Llansantffraed					48			110	22	20		
CAERNARFON												
Pwllheli					15			103			19	

Other large counts (100+): CARMARTHEN: 114 at Machynys on 18 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 420 at RSPB Ynyshir on 23 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 107 at Broadwater on 11 Aug.; DENBIGH: 135 between Towyn and Abergele on 17 Nov.

Several small, dark birds thought to belong to the race *C. h. psammadroma* were recorded on Bardsey, CAERNARFON, in spring and autumn.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Rare summer visitor, on industrial sites and gravel shoals of South Wales rivers: 144 pairs in 2007 (RBBP: 51 pairs in 2018). Scarce passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	171	273
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: 14-52 pairs, a higher total than in 2018 even without records from Gwent. E.GLAMORGAN: pair fledged young at Hirwaun Industrial Estate; pair in suitable habitat at Llwyn-on Res. on 27 April; up to three at Rhaslas Pond in May, June and early July; GOWER: two pairs fledged four at Castell-du; present at Kenfig saltmarsh; CARMARTHEN: 26 pairs along R. Tywi between Carmarthen and Rhosmaen; pair bred at Penclacwydd but

no young fledged; BRECON: pair bred at Llangasty but eggs were predated; three territories at Blaen Dyffryn quarries were occupied by four males and two females, and at least one hatched young; juv. at Talybont Res. on 19 July was probably raised here; agitated pair at Blaen Onneu Quarry suggested chicks present; up to four around Llangorse Lake but no breeding attempts reported; single male on shingle bank by R. Usk at Scethrog; MONTGOMERY: probably bred at Dolydd Hafren and at Llandinam Gravels on R. Severn, and on R. Dyfi near Machynlleth; two at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 7 June; MEIRIONNYDD: pair bred on the north side of the Dyfi; one at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 5 May and three here on 13 May; DENBIGH: pair bred at Llyn Brenig, outcome unknown but fully grown juv. here on 19 and 21 Aug.; FLINT: single pairs bred at St Asaph Business Park and on R. Clwyd saltmarsh near Rhyl.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**9 March**	**Newport Wetlands**		14 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	17 April	Portobello, Ogmore est.		2 Sept.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	7 April	Castell-du		14 July	Castell-du
CARMARTHEN	24 March	Pentre-Davis		12 Aug.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	11 April	Newport		7 June	Gann estuary
CEREDIGION	28 March	Cors Caron		1 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	30 March	Llangasty		17 Aug.	Llangasty
RADNOR	12 April	Cwmbach		2 Sept.	Glasbury
MONTGOMERY	26 March	Dolydd Hafren			
MEIRIONNYDD	12 April	R. Dyfi			
ANGLESEY	28 March	Cemlyn		**3 Oct.**	**Cemlyn**
DENBIGH	7 April	Acrefair		3 Sept.	Llyn Brenig
FLINT	23 March	Clwyd estuary		29 Aug.	Clwyd estuary

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* HUTAN Y MYNYDD

Local passage migrant in spring and autumn; nested sporadically until the 1970s, and suspected occasionally since. Wales Amber listed.

Dotterel (Tony Pope)

Spring records: 24 birds at eight locations, continuing the trend for trip size being smaller (average 3.9 in 2010-17). CARMARTHEN: four at Garreg Lwyd - Mynydd Du, on 6 May and one here on 11 May; CEREDIGION: four near summit of Pumlumon on 5 and 7 May; BRECON: two females and a male on Y Das in the northern Black Mountains on 10 May and at nearby Rhos Dirion on 11th; MEIRIONNYDD: one

over the Gylchedd, Cwm Hesgyn, on 15 May; one at Mynydd Moel, Cadair Idris, on 28 May and 1 June, reported to be dragging a wing, possibly distraction display; CAERNARFON: two males and female on the Great Orme on 23-29 April; six on Foel Fras on 30 April and presumably same here on 3 May; ANGLESEY: one at The Range on 10-13 May, joined by a second on 14 May.

Autumn records: PEMBROKE: one on Plumstone Mountain on 19-20 Sept.; one on Dale airfield on 21-28 Sept.; CAERNARFON: two at Aberdaron on 10 Sept.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* COEGYLFINIR

Locally common in coastal counties on spring and autumn passage, scarce inland. A few over-winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**817**	**781**
% of BirdTrack lists	**4%**	**3%**

It can be difficult to distinguish between early or late passage birds and wintering individuals. Spring passage probably began with one at Cemlyn, ANGLESEY, on 23 March. The last record was also at Cemlyn on 18 November, although this could have been a wintering bird.

Monthly max. at sites holding 30+ birds at least once during the year:

>30 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Peterstone Wentlooge				42	*c*.40	1		1				
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig NNR				33	40		1	2	1			
Rumney Great Wharf			1	2	44			39				
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd				1	37	1		2	1			
Gwendraeth estuary				43	75		3	2	1			
PEMBROKE												
Nevern estuary				15	32		3	1	2			
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	0	1	2	72	24	5	16	26	8	2	0	0

Other large passage counts (30+): GWENT: 35 at Collister on 23 April; GOWER: 30 at Blackpill on 16 April; 41 at Penclawdd on 24 April; 30 at Whiteford on 26 April and 75 here on 30th; 67 at Port Eynon on 27 April; 158 at Whiteford on 21 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 63 at the Dredger Jetty, Pwll, on 18 April; 40 at Kidwelly Marsh on 22 April; 43 at Kidwelly Quay on 30 April, *c*.75 here on 1 May and 63 on 10 May; CEREDIGION: 68 at Ynyslas on 25 April and 77 here on 28 April; CAERNARFON: 31 west of Criccieth on 27 April; 36 at Porthdinllaen GC on 9 May; ANGLESEY: 32 at Rhoscolyn on 26 April.

First winter period (Jan./Feb.), all singles unless otherwise stated: PEMBROKE: thought to have overwintered on Skokholm; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 20 Jan.; up to two thought to have overwintered on Bardsey; ANGLESEY: at least one overwintered at Malltraeth; Penrhos on 10 Jan.; Cemlyn on 13 Jan. and 3 Feb.; Red Wharf Bay on 25 Jan.; Pt Lynas on 24 Feb.

Second winter period: CAERNARFON: reported below the Little Orme on 5 Dec.

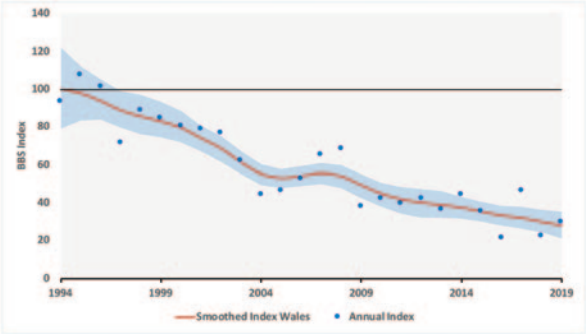
Inland records, all singles unless otherwise stated: CEREDIGION: two at Cors Caron on 30 April and one on 1 May; Llyn Eiddwen on 27 July; BRECON: Llangorse on 16 April; 6-8 around Llangorse Sailing Club Meadow on 27 April, increasing to 14 on 1 May, 17 on 4th and a single on 23rd; MONTGOMERY: one heard in flight northeast of Carno on 16 April.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* GYLFINIR

Localised and declining breeding species in upland Wales and a few lowland sites. Abundant winter visitor to coastal areas. Amber WeBS alert: -37% long-term, the greatest decline of any country in the UK. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	3887	4427
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	18%

Breeding Bird Survey: Curlew in Wales, 1994 - 2019



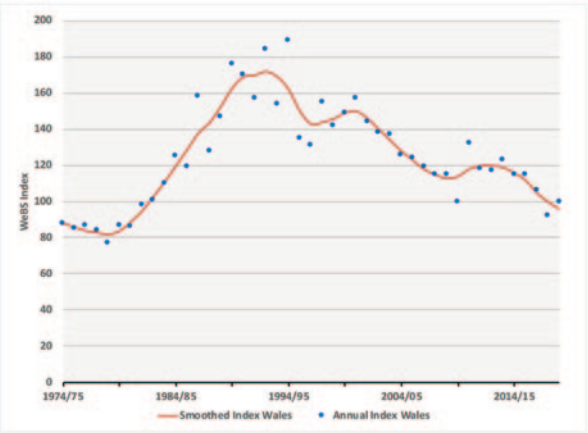
The 2019 Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales was not quite so low as in 2018 or 2016, but it should not detract from the 69% decrease since 1994, when Curlew had already become a scarce breeding species in many places that it had formerly inhabited.

Breeding season: a welcome increase in reports submitted, totalling 18 confirmed nests, 64 probable and 23 possible pairs (total 105, *cf*. 41 in 2018). E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Cwm Cothi; displayed on Gelligaer Common and at Groes-faen, Deri, in April, at Merthyr Common in May and Mynydd-y-Capel in June; surveys at Bargoed and Brithdir found no birds; PEMBROKE: two pairs fledged two young on Skomer; CEREDIGION: 10 in suitable habitat at Cors Caron on 25 March; BRECON: traditional breeding sites occupied by pairs or single birds but no chicks or behaviour indicative of confirmed breeding: Pant Mawr (Mynydd Llangatwg), Pont-bryn-hurt (Tretower), Scethrog, Llangorse Lake, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Llanhamlach/Llanfrynach, Cefn Cantref holdings, Felincamlais Pool/Forest Lodge, Cefn Llechid, Ysgirfechan/Llyn Dwr area, Roman Road (Trecastle), Brechfa Pool, Llandefalle Hill, Bronllys, Pwll-du/Cefn Gledwen/Pantyllyn (3-4 pairs), Llysdinam-Drum Ddu (1-2 pairs) and Waen Rydd, Llanwrtyd Wells (2 pairs); calling birds in late-April in Gorsllwyn area south of Coelbren, and around Penwaundwr/Waun Dwr on the Cnewr Estate; one calling in Llyn Traeth Bach area above Trecastle suggested breeding; pair at

Curlew (Cameron Sharp)

Felincamlais Pool abandoned early nesting attempt; MONTGOMERY: pair fledged four young on a sympathetically managed farm at Mochdre near Newtown; present at Nant yr Eira, but not at Mynydd Hendre where there were 1-2 pairs in 2012, nor Trannon, from where they had been lost between 1995 and 2012; MEIRIONNYDD: pair nested at Pen y Bryn near Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr; 15 adults, indicating possibly 7-8 pairs, with young at Mynydd Mynyllod in June; territories at Derwydd Bach and Tyddyn Fatw (both Melin y Wig); three territories around Llyn Trawsfynydd; at least one pair in the Gwnodl Bach, Cynwyd area; probable pair in the Hendwr area, Berwyn; three at Llanycil Common; 1-2 possible territories along R. Dee between Cynwyd and Corwen; one at Llyn Caer Euni; probable territory at Llangar; at least one pair north of Gwyddelwern; at least one pair near Bettws Garmon Goch; at least three pairs between Cae Einion and Caenog, near Clawdd Poncen; pair at Glanrafon, Druid; possible territories at Foel y Gwynt-Berwyn, Carrog and at Foel Boeth-Llyn Celyn; CAERNARFON: pair probably bred at Mynydd Llandygai; ANGLESEY: six pairs attempted to breed in silage fields in the Cefni Valley, one pair may have fledged young but four failed due to farming operations (RSPB survey); DENBIGH: in Mynydd Hiraethog, young seen at Llyn Aled Isaf, two family groups at Tyrpeg Mynydd, four young at Frondeg-Cerrigydrudion, and agitated behaviour near Bryn Myllt pond; territories at Foelasfechan, Tan-y-graig, Moel Seisiog and at Llyn Alwen; bred at Rosie's Cider, Llandegla, with territories at another 15 sites in the Berwyn, Ruabon Mountain and Esclusham Mountain, and at Fenn's Moss.

Wetland Bird Survey: Curlew in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales had not been falling so rapidly as the breeding index, but is now catching up. The index has fallen by 44% since the peak in 1992/93, which presumably reflects a decline in breeding numbers to the north and east of Wales. A Red WeBS alert has been issued for Burry Inlet SPA (-60%) and an Amber alert in the Dee estuary SPA (-37%).

Monthly max. at sites holding 500+ birds at least once during the year:

>500 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	319	296	59			21	165		564	326	280	273
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	419	391	63						356	533	445	559
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	652	625	220						545	466	848	186
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	935	1086	310	*c.*270	*c.*95	3	876	550	*c.*1200	*c.*900	1119	1467
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	522	324	278						307	329	172	201
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	845	750	850	200	108	87	850	1000	1000	800	313	500

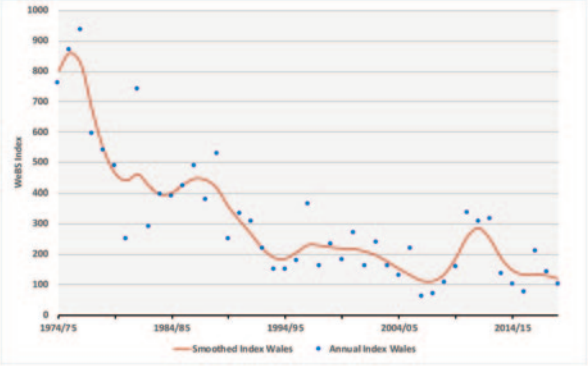
BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRAITH

Local passage migrant, more numerous in autumn than spring, and winter visitor. Rare away from the coasts. Red WeBS alert: -50% long-term and -51% short-term, although +21% medium term. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	295	443
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a sustained decline since the 1970s, to a level in 2018/19 that is 86% below its peak. The Great Britain index is stable, which suggests a easterly shift in passage and wintering areas. A WeBS red alert (-54%) for the long-term and an amber alert (-46%) for the short-term has been issued on the Dee estuary SPA. Only small numbers now occur in most coastal counties.

Wetland Bird Survey: Bar-tailed Godwit in Wales, 1974 - 2019



The number of sites holding counts of 50 at least once is declining:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Sker Pt			1	56	18				2			
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary	59	*c.*45	3		1		1	3	16	14	26	1
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	20	3	3	11					28	70	24	7

Other counts of 50+: GWENT: *c.*90 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 22 March and 65 here on 23 April; GOWER: 150 at Upper Loughor est. on 23 July.

Inland: E. GLAMORGAN: one at Flemingston Moor on 10-11 Nov. was the first record for this site.

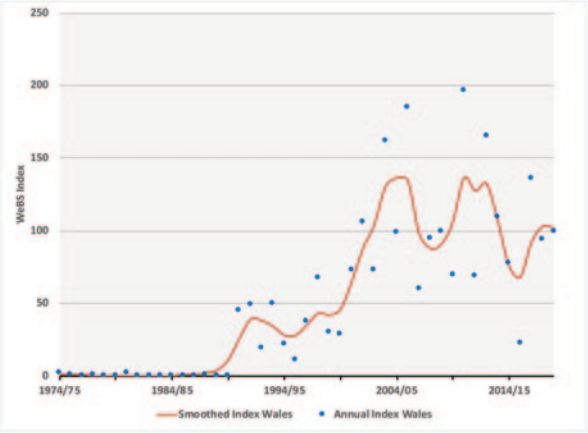
BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Localised spring and autumn passage migrant; wintering numbers have increased on the Dee estuary, usually on the English side. Amber WeBS alert: -27% short-term, but +140% for long-term. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1162	1695
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

Numbers in Wales vary between years, and a couple of seasons of better numbers has meant that the Wetland Bird Survey index (page 72) has been relatively stable since 2001/02, despite the annual fluctuations.

Wetland Bird Survey: Black-tailed Godwit in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Monthly max. at sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	112	*c.*100	*c.*350	250	*c.*80	55	*c.*350	*c.*350	120	178	5	100+
GOWER												
Whiteford	100				1							27
Penclawdd/ Dalton's Pt	370	86	234						200	274	74	437
Upper Loughor estuary	54	440	56	42							1	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	644	749	474	806	379	200	694	568	777	646	124	283
Gwendraeth estuary	63	250	1	4			5	2	4			
Tywi estuary	19				3					103	243	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	149	56	86						15	130	5	320
Leonardston - Llanstadwell	40							43				152
Picton Ferry	16	55	94									
Carew - Cresswell	12	50	80						5	22	4	10
Pembroke Mill Ponds	10							20	109			
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	175+	169	89	36			4		6	3	18	91
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	800	30	2		18			2	20	*c.*50	32	161
Connah's Quay NR	250	90	50	200	67	35	320	400	2000	3800	4000	2000
Flint Saltmarsh	26	22					6		2	4000	112	34
Clwyd estuary	*c.*25	31	*c.*45	61	5	12	29	15		4	130	200

Other large counts (50+): GWENT: 450 at St Brides on 28 Sept.; GOWER: 60 at Llanrhidian Marsh/Staffal Haegr on 18 Feb.; 295 below Loughor Bridge on 6 April; PEMBROKE: 110 at Llangwm on 1-4 March and 120 here on 13 March; 64 at Landshipping on 6 April; 58 at Pembroke Castle Pond on 10 Sept.; 50 at Angle Bay in Dec.; FLINT: 1500 at Warren Farm, Talacre, on 30 Sept.

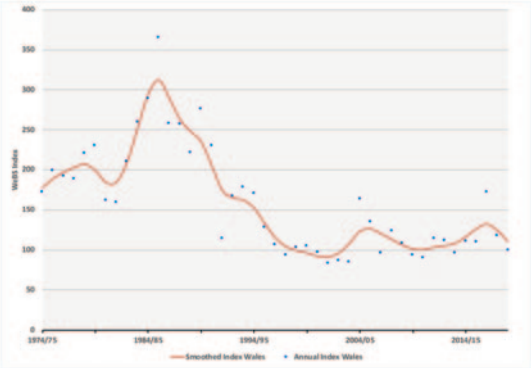
Inland: CEREDIGION: nine at Cors Caron on 28 March; BRECON: two at Llangasty on 11 Aug.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* CWTIAD TRAETH

Localised passage migrant and winter visitor. A few non-breeding birds are present throughout the summer. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1084	1302
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

Wetland Bird Survey: Turnstone in Wales, 1974 - 2019



The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been stable for 20 years, having fallen dramatically in the late 1980s. Red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long term (-89%) and medium term (-78%) on the Burry Inlet SPA.

Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once):

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Sker Pt area incl Pink Bay	74	88	48	19	30	25	33	78	36	28	44	44
Rest Bay/Ffynnon-wen Rocks			60	7					12	55	38	29
Sully Bay	20	28	27	11	8		2	63	32	40	52	31
Swanbridge/Sully Island	11	28	27	11	3			21	58	43	66	31
GOWER												
Whiteford	139	140						5		160	160	32
Mumbles	32	32	10					100	190	81	35	60
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey						1		39	69	62	66	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary		31							58		39	31
CEREDIGION												
Llanrhystud/Llansantffraid	3	5	5		5		5	45	75	48	18	18
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	0	36	35	22	28	3	17	96	94	55	8	0
Foryd	80	100	3						90	250	260	130
Traeth Lafan	194	36	*c.*40	1	7				23	2	239	51
Rhos Pt	128	83+	*c.*46	1				15	6+	87		60
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	11	47	9						8	0	65	50
DENBIGH												
Kinmel Bay/Horton's Nose	59	*c.*150		212			115	129	322	146		318
Abergele to Llanddulas	92	38	48						91	96	4	
FLINT												
Mostyn Dock shore	35	3						1		50	91	71

Other counts of 50+: GWENT: 123 at West Pill on 24 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 80 at Penrhyn Bay on 27 Jan.; DENBIGH: 95 between Towyn and Abergele on 17 Nov.; 50 at Old Colwyn on 1 Dec.

Inland: BRECON: one at Llangasty on 25 Aug.

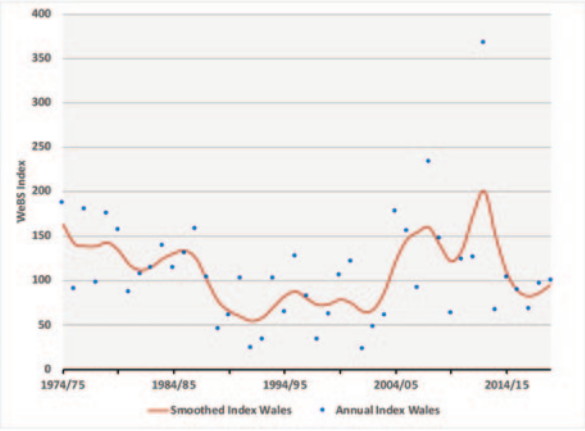
KNOT *Calidris canutus* PIBYDD YR ABER

Locally common winter visitor to some estuaries, but scarce elsewhere. Also passage migrant, but rare inland. Red WeBS alert: -50% for medium term and -55% for short term. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	262	474
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fluctuates but has remained very stable over the long-term. A Red WeBS alert (-52%) for the medium term and Amber alerts for the short (-40%) and long (-33%) terms have been issued for the Burry Inlet SPA, which remains an important wintering area in a Welsh context. Amber alerts have been issued for the short (-40%), medium (-31%) and long (-40%) term on the Dee estuary SPA.

Wetland Bird Survey: Knot in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Other counts of 300+: GWENT: 680 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 28-29 Aug. and *c*.300 here on 13 Sept.; GOWER: fewer counts than usual, especially in the Burry Inlet, max. 2000 at Llanrhidian Marsh on 18 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: *c*.1500 at Machynys on 21 Dec. FLINT: 800 at Ffynnongroyw on 20 Jan. and 400 here on 15 Dec.; 500 at Talacre on 17 Oct.; 2500 at Flint Saltmarsh on 28 Oct.

Monthly max. at sites holding 300+ at least once:

>300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Penclawdd/Crofty										344		400
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd		1	30	25	25		1	300	998	900	167	467
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	4000	2000								30	460	3540
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	700	700							13	2		
Traeth Lafan	96	100+	21	18					20	18	*c*.350	396
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog	760	0	0	0	0		0	0		28	208	500
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR			1		3		3	12	50	2000	1000	500
Point of Ayr	1200	700	100			2		22	*c*.30	1700	60	2500

RUFF *Calidris pugnax* PIBYDD TORCHOG

Localised passage migrant in small numbers, principally in autumn. Occasionally winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**185**	**255**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**1%**

There is no Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales, but it is evident that the number of Ruffs has decreased since the 1970s, when double-figure counts were not unusual.

Approximate monthly totals:

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT			4	1				9	12			
GOWER			1					1	1			
CARMARTHEN							1	3	2	1		1
PEMBROKE	2	1						2	3		1	
CEREDIGION				1					2	1		
BRECON			1	3								
MEIRIONNYDD									3			
CAERNARFON									1			
ANGLESEY	3		2	3	2			1	2			
DENBIGH	1							2				
FLINT								3		2		2

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* PIBYDD CAMBIG

Uncommon passage migrant to coastal areas, principally in autumn, relatively numerous in some years. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**143**	**174**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Spring passage, singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 18-24 April; PEMBROKE: Gann estuary on 11 May; CAERNARFON: Bangor on 8 May; ANGLESEY: two at Cemlyn on 16 April and one here on 22 April.

Autumn passage was rather average for recent times, with *c*.64 individuals (*cf*. *c*.45 in 2018). Records were single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: seven at Newport Wetlands on dates between 26 Aug. and 27 Sept.; Caldicot Pill on 4 Oct.; GOWER: juv. on West Cross beach on 14 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 30 Aug. and 8 Sept., two here on 21st, four on 22nd and three on 23rd and 26th; juv. at Pembrey Harbour on 29 Sept.; Kidwelly Quay on 29 Sept., 9 and 13-16 Oct., and two on 5 Oct.; PEMBROKE: two at the Gann est. on 23 Aug., one here on 7 Sept. and three on 10 Nov.; Skokholm on 3 Aug.; Nevern est. on 3 and 22 Sept.; Dale airfield on 15 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: up to three on the Teifi est. during 1-28 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 1 Sept.; four at Ynyslas on 1 Sept., six on 2nd, one on 13th and two on 30th; MEIRIONNYDD: Broadwater on 29 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: three at the Alaw est. on 25 Aug. and singles here on 27 Aug., 30 Oct. and 10 Nov.; two at Cemlyn on 26 Aug.; Malltraeth Cob on 10 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 1 Sept.; FLINT: three at Connah's Quay NR on 30 July, one on 31st, one here on 12-20 Sept. and 26 Sept. and two on 27-29 Sept.; Flint saltmarsh on 15 Sept.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* PIBYDD TEMMINCK

Scarce passage migrant, usually in spring. WBRC: 58 previous records.

GWENT: two at Ynysyfro Res. on 18 May; CEREDIGION: one at Ynyslas on 12-13 May.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Winter visitor, locally fairly common on sandy beaches in Flintshire and South Wales. Passage migrant on the coast but scarce inland. Amber WeBS alerts: -42% for short-term and -45% for medium term. Wales Amber listed.

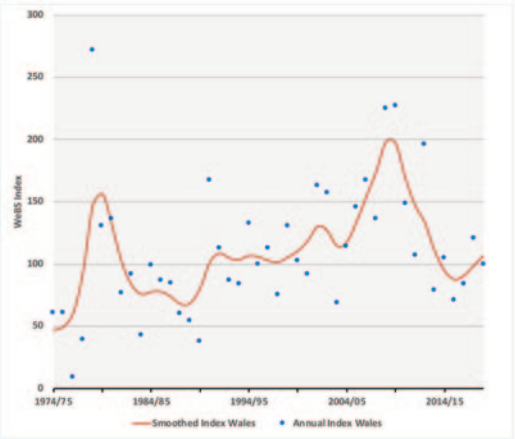
	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	360	392
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	1%

Non-breeding: the long-term increase in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales was slowed by the sharp fall in the six years from 2009/10, but that has been arrested over the last couple of winters.

Flocks of 50+ not in table below: E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Porthcawl on 13 Sept.; GOWER: 200 at Blackpill on 21 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 228 on Glaslyn/Dwyryd est. in

Monthly max. at sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year:

Wetland Bird Survey: Sanderling in Wales, 1974 - 2019



>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Flat Holm		30	90	60								
Newton Pt/beach	16	6	7	2				20	20		86	57
Kenfig Sands					100	10			53			
Rest Bay			230						30			
Sker Pt & adjacent beach	52	56	268	200	20	40	66	150	150	7	1	52
GOWER												
Rhossili/Burry Holms	19	24										29
Crymlyn Burrows	40	6	80					250			520	
Aberavon	160		250					1	1		106	6
Margam Sands	292	160	750	274	110				240		100	550
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey		44		50	250	24	125	300	7	220		
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	750	1093	470		600			800		376	130	800
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary					50		2	24	25	2		
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary/Borth	12	22	17	25	100	14		12	16	11	17	12
DENBIGH												
Horton's Nose/Kinmel Bay	36	75										195
FLINT												
Gronant	45	*c.*45	*c.*70		*c.*150	1+	22	25		105	*c.*300	*c.*180
Point of Ayr	55			450				70	3	50		

Jan. was the second highest ever for the county; 110 at Morfa Harlech on 3 Jan.; DENBIGH: 65 between Towyn and Abergele on 17 Nov.

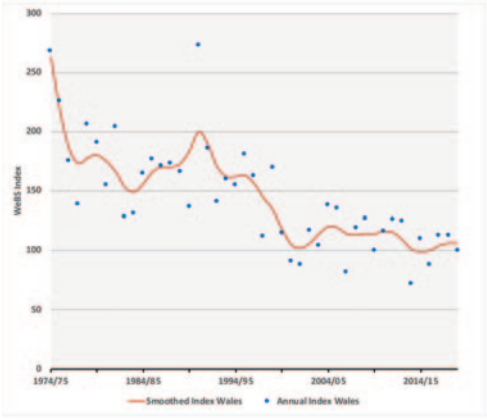
Inland records: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Rhaslas Pond on 10 May; two low over Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 10 Aug.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* PIBYDD MAWN

Scarce and local breeder, restricted to a few blanket bogs with scattered pools. Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber WeBS alert: -44% long-term, the highest of any UK country. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1915	2080
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	8%

Wetland Bird Survey: Dunlin in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Breeding season/habitat: BRECON: one 'scurring' at a traditional site in the Black Mountains on 27 May; MONTGOMERY: one in the Berwyn above Llangynog on 30 April; MEIRIONNYDD: six at Llyn Trawsfynydd with excited calling on 1 June but no evidence of breeding.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been stable this century, following a decline in the 1990s, but is 60% lower than its

Monthly max. at sites holding 1000+ birds at least once during the year:

>1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Caldicot Pill	3000	800+									500	
St Brides		3000			140			40			20	
Newport Wetlands	200+	300+	*c.*20	*c.*160	600	101	140+	1000	*c.*300	28	400	1000
Peterstone Wentlooge	1000+	500+	16	45+	12						400	3
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	2100	100									500	100
GOWER												
Whiteford	1000	500			300		45	200			200	100
Blackpill	110	1520	940	211	240		90		280	260		
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	14	32			130					13	180	1280
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	2270	2264							36	31	1865	2298
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	679	400	85	150	2500	45	24	620	240	267	552	62
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	1100	660	1	1		2	6	5	90	90	220	130
Traeth Lafan	1057	879	21	6	7			98	80	200+	671	1039
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	1630	1463	2						61	3	684	470
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	1125	1000	150	50	3	10	50	100	179	250	450	140
Gronant	1700	*c.*450	*c.*55	320	*c.*75	42	110		4	38	*c.*800	1420
Connah's Quay NR	2000	500	40	40	74	5	400	181	250	200	350	300
Flint saltmarsh	600	1000			37			38	61	17	5	

1974/75 baseline. The UK-wide decline started earlier in Wales. Amber WeBS alerts have been issued for short (-26%) and long (-41%) term declines in the Burry Inlet SPA.

Flocks of 1000+ not included in table onn page 77: GWENT: 2500 at Collister Pill on 25 Jan. and 1500 here on 25 Nov.; GOWER: 1900 between Weobley and Llanrhidian on 11 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: *c*.1750 at Machynys on 16 Nov.; FLINT: 2000 at Greenfield Dock on 23-24 Jan. and 1000 here on 20 Feb.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* PIBYDD DU

Localised winter visitor in small numbers to rocky shorelines. Red WeBS alerts: -51% medium term and amber alert (-42%) for short-term, but long-term is +96%. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**112**	**151**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

This species appears to be declining in Wales, with counts at most of the regular sites down in recent years.

Monthly max. at sites holding 10+ birds at least once during the year:

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Ogmore-by-Sea	21	5									3	2
Sker Pt area	11	15	6	13	8						2	4
CEREDIGION												
Aberystwyth	8	7	7	5							6	7
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	0	0	45	45	60	19	0	8	4	25	12	0
ANGLESEY												
Trearddur Bay	9	1	24								2	2

Counts of 10+ elsewhere: E. GLAMORGAN: 12 at Rest Bay on 24 March; ANGLESEY: 25 on Puffin Island on 19 Jan.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* PIBYDD BACH

Uncommon passage migrant in small numbers to coastal areas, principally in autumn. Rare inland. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**68**	**59**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Winter records, singles: GWENT: Collister Pill on 15 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Cosheston on 14 Jan.; FLINT: Greenfield on 24 Jan.

Spring passage, all singles: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 8 May; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 25 May; Traeth Dulas on 2 June; FLINT: Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 19 May.

Autumn passage, all singles: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve from 31 Aug. to 6 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: juv. at Penclacwydd on 2 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: Broadwater on 26 Aug.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 1 and 28 Sept; FLINT: Flint saltmarsh on 15 Sept.; Connah's Quay NR on 19, 21 and 26 Sept.

SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla* PIBYDD LLWYD

Very rare visitor from North America. BBRC: nine previous records.

GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 1-5 Sept.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* CYFFYLOG

Localised and declining breeder. Widespread and fairly common in winter. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	236	182
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

The breeding status of this species in Wales remains poorly understood, but records of breeding or possible breeding are getting fewer (*cf*. three in 2018). All records suggesting possible breeding are given: GWENT: up to three roding, plus one presumed female, at Broad Meend; three at Beacon Hill, Trellech; MONTGOMERY: possibly bred near Llanfair Caereinion; MEIRIONNYDD: at least one in a small copse in the Dysynni valley in May and June; one at Lower Tryweryn, Bala, on 20 May but no subsequent sightings.

Non-breeding max. passage and wintering counts listed below. Most multiple counts resulted from nocturnal ringing effort or shooting:

First winter period. GOWER: ringing at Brynmoel Farm near Blackhills on 10 and 16 March indicated at least 10 birds present; CARMARTHEN: four over Heol Blaenhirwaun, Cefneithin, on 21 and 22 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 10 in the Boncath area on 3 Jan.; six at Frenni on 11 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 57 at Cors Caron on 21 Jan.; BRECON: four flew from Coed Rhaiadr forestry onto upland grasslands on 25 Jan.; four by Nant yr Hendy at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl on 1 Feb.; CAERNARFON: eight at Glanwydden on 1 Feb.; eight at Llwyfaen, Tal-y-cafn, on 10 Feb.; ANGLESEY: five at Llanddyfnan on 18 Feb.; DENBIGH: 10 shot at Rhewl on 23 Jan.

Second winter period. E.GLAMORGAN: three at Kenfig NNR on 4 Nov.; PEMBROKE: max. 7 in the Boncath area on 23 Dec.; BRECON: 12 flushed from forest tracks within Mynydd Du forestry (Grwyne Fawr) on 2 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 23 ringed near Llanerfyl on evening of 26 Nov.; CAERNARFON: four on Bardsey on 19 and 26 Oct.; ANGLESEY: nine in Newborough Forest on 18 Nov.; five at Holyhead Breakwater CP on 4 Nov.; DENBIGH: five at Chirk on 5 Dec.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus* GIACH BACH

Uncommon (and probably under-recorded) passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	124	78
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Notable counts in the table on page 80 include: BRECON: eight at Mynydd Illtud in Jan.; CAERNARFON: 5+ at Porthmadog on 29 Oct.; ANGLESEY: six at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 19 Feb.; FLINT: five at Shotwick Fields/RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 15 Jan.

In addition: CEREDIGION: small numbers in both winter periods, including up to four flushed during rush-cutting at RSPB Ynys-hir in late Sept. and Oct.; good numbers at Ynys Tachwedd fields in Nov. and Dec.

Approximate county totals where available:

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	3	1					4	4
E.GLAMORGAN	10	4	3	1		2	4	1
GOWER	4	2	6	1			1+	1+
CARMARTHEN		4	2					1
PEMBROKE	3	2	1			5	1	2
BRECON	10	7	3	1		1	2	2
MONTGOMERY			1					
MEIRIONNYDD	1			1		1		
CAERNARFON	1	3		3		7+		
ANGLESEY	5	11	1			2	3	1
DENBIGH	1					2	1	3
FLINT	7	1	1				1	

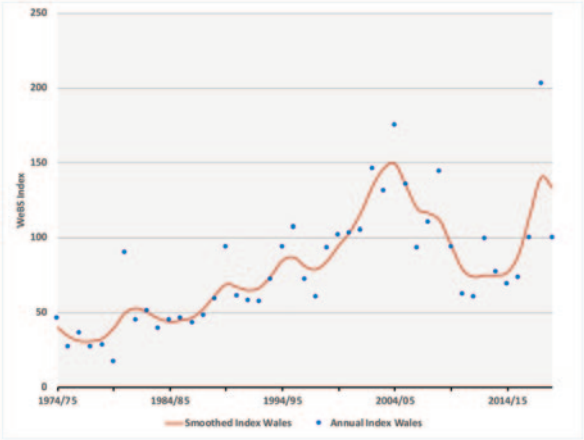
SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* GIACH CYFFREDIN

Localised but declining breeder (1100 pairs). Fairly common and more widespread in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**1723**	**1515**
% of BirdTrack lists	**8%**	**6%**

Breeding season records from 26 sites (*cf*. 13 in 2018, which included two in Gwent): E.GLAMORGAN: possibly bred at Rhaslas Pond, and one at Jepson's Pond on 5 May; CEREDIGION: possibly bred at RSPB Ynys-hir, Cors Fochno, Cors Caron, Nant y Moch and at Llyn y Figyn; BRECON: one at a breeding site on Mynydd Llangatwg on 18 April; possibly bred at MoD Epynt and Ffos-y-wen; MONTGOMERY: possibly bred northeast of Carno; MEIRIONNYDD: 23 chipping/drumming males at Morfa Mawddach (*cf*. 33 in 2018); three drumming at Ynys Saltings on 23 May; possibly bred at Cefn Clawdd, Rhinog; also present at Tan yr allt and Pont Croesor; CAERNARFON: possibly bred at Cors Geirch and on the Migneint at Bryn Llech, Foel Boeth and Bryniau Duon; ANGLESEY: possibly bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga and Cors Bodeilio; DENBIGH: possibly bred at Llyn Brân, Cloddiau Du, Rhydtalog and at Capel Siloam near Padog; FLINT: one drumming at the Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 24 May.

Wetland Bird Survey: Snipe in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey annual index and the BirdTrack reporting rate were more typical in 2018/19, following a temporary surge in 2017/18.

Monthly max. at sites with 40+ birds at least once during the year:

>40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER										
Oxwich Marsh		40	25							44
CARMARTHEN										
Gwendraeth estuary	75	75	2				5	9	5	9
PEMBROKE										
Gupton/Castlemartin Corse	120	112	22					40	278	147
Cleddau estuary	70	74	7				0	8	99	133
Newgale Marsh		17	3						120	
BRECON										
Mynydd Illtud	97	66	60				3	70	81	72
CAERNARFON										
Foryd	54+	18	8			2	2	1	110	1
ANGLESEY										
RSPB Cors Ddyga	61	54	4	2		18	23	83	160	38
RSPB Valley Wetlands	62	61	4	14		0	1	17	55	65
DENBIGH										
RSPB Conwy	40	2	5	1			12	8	75	58
FLINT										
Connah's Quay NR	26	26	24	2			6	28	83	29
Gronant Dunes	3	6	3			2	13	*c*.15	78	4

Other counts of 40+: PEMBROKE: 50 at Marloes Mere on 8 Sept.; 120 at Newgale on 16 Nov.; 40 at Little Milford on 20 Dec.; 42 at Angle Bay on 23 Dec.; 50 at Cosheston Pill on 28 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 153 at Penllyn, Tywyn, on 25 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 88 at Church Island on 28 Jan. and 76 here on 29th; *c*.40 at Llangefni lagoons on 22 Feb.; FLINT: 40 at Flint saltmarsh on 20 Feb.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* LLYDANDROED GYDDFGOCH

Rare passage migrant. WBRC: 63 previous records.

Singles: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 22-24 April; Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 29-30 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: female at Penclacwydd on 9 June, the first spring record for the county; PEMBROKE: male at Teifi Marshes on 8 June.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* LLYDANDROED LLWYD

Uncommon and irregular passage migrant, predominantly to coastal areas during September-October.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**69**	**69**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 28 Sept.; GOWER: 1CY at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 28 Sept.; PEMBROKE: at Strumble Head, one on 6 and 31 Aug., two on 1 Sept., three on 5 Sept. and eight on 6 Oct.; Skokholm on 21 Aug.; one picked up, dazed after flying into a wall, at Newgale on 11 Oct. and released the following day; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 14-23 March.

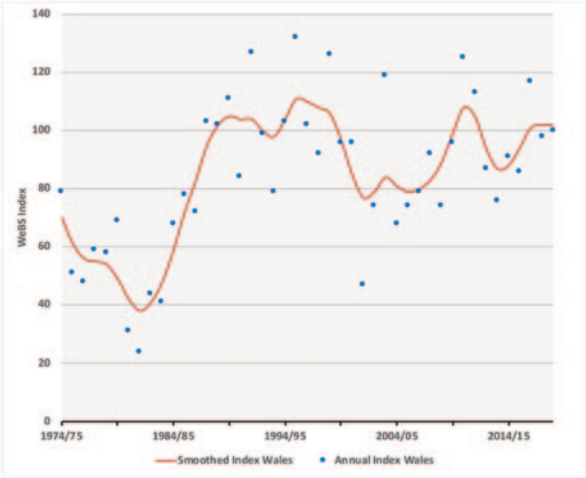
COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* PIBYDD DORLAN

Summer visitor that breeds in most counties, but declining (490 pairs). Around 20 over-winter, though up to 40 in some years. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	855	1026
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

Summary of breeding season records: E.GLAMORGAN: present at Llwyn-on Res.; GOWER: on the R. Neath, one pair bred at Ynys-y-gerwyn and one pair at Clyne; pair present at Aberdulais Basin; CEREDIGION: records at Cors Caron and RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: bred at Garnlydan, Talybont Res., Llanwysg (Crickhowell) and by the R. Usk below Pencelli; probably/possibly bred at Llangynidr Res., Beacons Res., Cantref Res., Crai Res. (two pairs), Usk Res., Llyn Brianne (two pairs), R. Usk at Llanhamlach, and R. Elan at Elan Village and Dolymynach; four at Usk Res. on 10 Aug. may have been a local family party; MEIRIONNYDD: two territories on the east side of Llyn Tegid; one territory at Llyn Celyn; up to four pairs at Llyn Trawsfynydd; two territories along the Maentwrog Levels; pair at Pont Maentwrog; 1-2 birds in suitable habitat at 19 other sites; CAERNARFON: bred at Cors Bodgynydd; probably bred at Llyn Geirionnydd; birds in suitable breeding habitat at 12 other sites; DENBIGH: bred at Llyn Aled Isaf, Afon Aled and the Upper Alwen Res.; probably bred at Llyn Brenig; present at three other sites.

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Sandpiper in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Non-breeding: numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey in Wales have been stable for over 25 years, whereas they have declined in England and Scotland.

First winter period, all singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: three in Jan./Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: two at the Ogmore est. in Jan. and one in Feb.; two at Portobello, Ogmore, in Jan. and one in Feb.; R. Taff at Treforest on 1 Jan.; Birdies Lane footbridge, Fairwater, on 27 Feb.; GOWER: at Castell-du, Penclawdd, Afan est. and Eglwys Nunydd Res. in Jan./Feb., and five at Berthlwyd on 13 Jan.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. in Jan. to 26 Feb.; St Dogmaels, Teifi est., on 5 Jan.; Haverfordwest on 7 Jan.; Fowborough Pt on 19 Jan.; St Justinians on 20 Jan.; Aberfforest on 23 Jan. and 8 Feb.; CEREDIGION: Teifi and Dyfi estuaries, with two at Glandyfi in Feb. (also in MEIRIONNYDD); RADNOR: two in Jan./Feb.; ANGLESEY: one at Church Island, Menai Bridge, from 9 Jan. to 5 March, and two here on 18 Feb.; FLINT: Greenfield Dock on 24 Jan.; 1-2 on Clwyd est. saltmarsh between Rhyl and Rhuddlan in Jan. and Feb.

Spring passage: early migrants can be difficult to distinguish from wintering birds, but one on the Mawddach est., MEIRIONNYDD, on 24 March was thought to be a migrant. Max. counts: E.GLAMORGAN: nine at Portobello, Ogmore, and eight on the Ogmore est. in April; CARMARTHEN: three at the Dredger Jetty, Pwll, on 19 April; CEREDIGION: nine at Ynyslas on 16 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 at Dyfi Junction on 11 April; seven at Penmaneucha, Penmaenpool, on 18 April; ANGLESEY: six at Cemlyn on 21 April; DENBIGH: six at RSPB Conwy on 18 April; FLINT: six at Connah's Quay NR on 17 April.

Post-breeding and autumn passage max. counts >10: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 on the Ogmore est. and nine at Portobello, Ogmore, in July; GOWER: seven at Castell-du on 17 July, seven here on 17 Aug. and six on 13

Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Pembrey Harbour on 13 Aug.; PEMBROKE: nine at Carew on 14 July; CEREDIGION:; 11 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 23 Aug.; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: 10 at Glandyfi on on 3 Aug.; BRECON: 18 at Talybont Res. on 13 July; CAERNARFON: 12 on Bardsey on 13 July, 14 on 15th, 14 on 7 Aug. and 17 on 8th; ANGLESEY: 11 at Cemlyn on 21 July and 8-9 Aug.; FLINT: 14 on R. Clwyd saltmarsh near Rhyl on 24 July and nine here on 1 Aug.

Second winter period, all singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. in Nov. and Dec.; two at Portobello, Ogmore, in Nov. and one in Dec.; Rhymney est. on 16 Dec.; GOWER: Penclawdd Pill, Afan est. and Eglwys Nunydd Res. from late Nov.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. in Nov./Dec. and four here on 20 Dec.; two at Radford Pill on 24 Nov.; two at Hook on 19 Nov and one here on 16 Dec.; Aberfforest on 14 and 16 Dec.; two at Little Milford on 20 Dec.; two at Ford Pill-Paskeston on 23 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: two at Broadwater on 14 Nov.; three at Ynys Saltings on 29 Dec. (also in CEREDIGION); FLINT: Connah's Quay NR until 28 Nov.; Mostyn Dock on 15 Dec.; Clwyd est. in Nov./Dec. and two here on 25 Dec.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* PIBYDD GWYRDD

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Amber WeBS alerts: -48% long-term and -93% medium term, but short-term increase is 30%. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**148**	**281**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**1%**

Monthly max. counts from R. Ely, E.GLAMORGAN:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Pendoylan/Peterston	6	5	3				4	7	6	4	7	8

Elsewhere in the first winter period. All singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Llanfihangel Gobion on 10 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: Hendre Lake on 4 Jan.; Ogmore est. on 19-20 and 28 Jan., and 8 March; GOWER: in the Burry Inlet, at least one between Castell-du and Cwm Ivy Marsh in Jan.-April, and three at Llanrhidian Marsh on 1 and 13 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd in Jan. and Feb.; Dryslwyn on 15 Feb.; two at Pentre-Davis on 24 Feb.; Caedelyn Farm, Llanedi, on 9 March; Morfa Bach on 26 March; PEMBROKE: Pembroke Mill Pond on 13 Jan.; Orielton on 17 Feb.; CEREDIGION: two on the Dyfi, mainly at Glandyfi or RSPB Ynys-hir, in Feb.; Cors Caron in Feb.; BRECON: three along R. Usk between Newton Farm, Llansantffraed, and Pencelli on 15 Jan.; Camlais Brook, Mynydd Illtud, on 10 March; four at Pipton, on the R. Wye on 12 March; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren on 13 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: Dyfi Junction on 20 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Foryd in Jan.; Pwllheli on 4 March; ANGLESEY: NW Anglesey on 12 Jan.; two in the Alaw est. on 15 Feb. and one here on 23 March; DENBIGH: three at Pontashpool, Llandyrnog, on 25 Jan.; R. Clwyd at Rhuthun on 2 Feb.; R. Clywedog at Llanrhaeadr on 12 Feb.; FLINT: Shotwick Boating Lake on 6 and 8 Jan.; Fagl Lane GP and Hartsheath, Pontblyddyn, on 21 Feb.; Queensferry on 28 Feb.

Counts of 4+ birds on passage: GWENT: max. six at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 29 July; E.GLAMORGAN: five at Kenfig Pool on 2 Aug.; GOWER: 13 at Staffal Haegr on 25 July; MEIRIONNYDD: five on R. Dyfi upstream of Glandyfi on 13 Sept.; ANGLESEY: four at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 1 Aug. and eight here on 24 Aug.

In the second winter period, singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: three at Llanfihangel Gobion on 23 Dec.; GOWER: Neath, on 1 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: two at Penclacwydd in Nov. and one in Dec.; Dryslwyn on 29 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Cleddau est. in Nov.; Minwear Woods on 4 Dec.; CEREDIGION: up to two on the R. Dyfi, mainly at Glandyfi (also in MEIRIONNYDD between 22 Sept. and 28 Dec. with two on 3 Nov.) or RSPB Ynys-hir; two at Abercoed, near Tregaron, on 5 Nov.; BRECON: Llangorse Sailing Club Meadow on 1 Dec., possibly wintering lower down the R. Llynfi.; DENBIGH: four at Trevalyn, Pulford Brook, on 30 Dec.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes* MELYNGOES BACH

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 23 previous records.

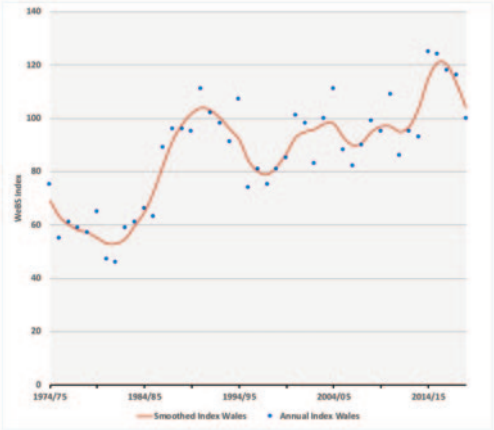
PEMBROKE: 1CY at Pembroke Mill Pond on 7-24 Sept.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* PIBYDD COESGOCH

Localised and declining breeding species, now confined chiefly to saltmarshes. Abundant around the coast in winter. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	3108	3655
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	15%

Wetland Bird Survey: Redshank in Wales, 1974 - 2019



Breeding season: an increase at the main RSPB-managed sites, and in Meirionnydd at the relatively small Mochras saltings and better counts from Ynys Saltings than in recent years. GWENT: at least two broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve; CARMARTHEN: possibly bred at Pembrey Saltings (pair displayed on 30 May); CEREDIGION: 38 pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir *(cf.* 28 pairs in 2018); MEIRIONNYDD: five territories at Mochras saltings; five pairs displayed at Ynys

Monthly max. at sites holding 300+ birds at least once during the year:

>300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rumney Great Wharf	3		33	5	5			30	380			10
Rhymney estuary	800	800	600	25					400		25	800
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	185	65	398	25	4	2	110	127	192	136	15	18
Gwendraeth estuary	42	150				23	201	359	224	571	150	6
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	568	635	164						328	472	712	725
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	2500+	1002	605	*c.*150	2		20	59	355	1083	1373	1129
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	456	320	83						50	92	387	232
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	302	292	200	84	1	8	120	400	315	447	310	305
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	250	150	70	2			12	50	200	1000	250	300
Mostyn	15	91	350					290	1000		62	34
Flint saltmarsh	86	119	105	98			106	92	2150	220	43	38
Ffynnongroyw Bay	62	16						2		420	420	80
Connah's Quay NR	250	120	400	1200	12	50	1600	3500	5000	2500	500	200
Clwyd estuary	89	162	*c.*245	48	9	2	82	58	221	124	500	380

Saltings, Dyfi Junction, in April, and two pairs were active to mid-June; a few small counts from other saltmarshes but no indications of breeding; CAERNARFON: one pair at RSPB Morfa Dinlle; FLINT: 15 pairs in the Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Non-breeding: in contrast to its declining breeding status in Wales, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been stable, perhaps slightly increasing, since the late 1980s, although dipped 14% below the previous year. That trend is very different to the index in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, all of which have recorded declines.

Counts of 300+ not included in table on page 84: FLINT: 320 at Walwen fields and saltmarsh on 16 Sept.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* PIBYDD GRAEAN

Uncommon passage migrant, principally in the autumn but with a scattering of spring records.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	58	100
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A total of 25 individuals was at the upper end of the recent trend but although there was an influx into Britain in the autumn, no large numbers were recorded in Wales. All records (single birds unless otherwise stated):

Spring passage (to end of June): GWENT: three at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 6 May and one until 7th, one here on 25-29 June; GOWER: Staffal Haegr on 26 June; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 26 June; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 23 June; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 3 May; Cors Caron on 7 May; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 24 April, 1 and 12 May; Cemlyn on 15 May; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 19-25 April.

Autumn passage: GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from 27 July to 5 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: juv. at Kenfig Pool on 30 July; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 9 Aug.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi Marshes on 6-8 Aug.; BRECON: Llangasty on 5-6 Aug., another here on 8 Aug.; CAERNARFON: two past Bardsey on 10 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Traeth Dulas on 1 Aug.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 26-27 July and 5 Aug.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Uncommon but regular passage migrant to coastal counties, mainly in autumn. Small numbers overwinter, chiefly in the Burry Inlet and Dee estuary. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	322	509
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

A fairly typical spread of records, but the size of wintering flocks in Wales is falling, as elsewhere, with numbers lower than in the 1970s. The only site with four or more birds was Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire, with an impressive total in September.

Monthly records	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT		5	2	9					2	2	1	
E.GLAMORGAN				1								
GOWER	1	1					2		1			
CARMARTHEN	2	1					1	1	1	3	2	1
PEMBROKE						1			1		2	1
CEREDIGION	1	1	1	1						1	1	1
MEIRIONNYDD				1								
CAERNARFON	1							1	1	1		
ANGLESEY									1	1	1	
DENBIGH						1		1	1	1	1	1
FLINT Connah's Quay NR	12	2		1		3	10	15	24	14	7	5

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* PIBYDD COESWYRDD

Locally common in coastal areas on passage, chiefly in autumn, and over winter. Scarce inland. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	986	1142
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached another all-time high in 2018/19, 80% above its 1979/80 low-point.

Wetland Bird Survey: Greenshank in Wales, 1974 - 2019

Monthly max. at sites holding 15+ at least once during the year, or 8+ in winter:

>15 birds, or 8+ in winter	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	18	7	2	2	4		9	87	40	32	8	20
Gwendraeth estuary	15	9		7			17	23	19	14	17	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	18	15	21						28	40	40	40
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	5	1	0	2		1	6	7	12	7	3	11
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	8	9	20	2	2			12	19	19	19	11
Foryd	12	10	13	1		2	8	12	22	19	12	8
ANGLESEY												
Cymyran-Beddmanarch	4	3	5	2	2		8	15	20	20	7	2
Cemlyn	2			2	1		1	1	19	1	1	
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR	10	9	13	6	3	2	14	17	26	20	10	8

Approximate monthly totals (including site counts above):

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT		1	1	4	2		3	7	13			
E.GLAMORGAN			1	2	3		4	4	5	4		
GOWER	3	3	3	5		4	5	4	12	13	4	3
CARMARTHEN	36	16	4	9	4		26	120	59	57	27	20
PEMBROKE	24	17	23		8	1	45	3	40	42	47	45
CEREDIGION (min.)					3			8	5			2
BRECON				1	1	2		3				
MONTGOMERY								1				
MEIRIONNYDD	7	4		4		1	7	7	12	7	7	12
CAERNARFON	20	20	33	5	4	3	16	36	57	44	36	20
ANGLESEY	23	10	7	7	12	1	19	26	42	28	13	10
DENBIGH	1	1+	1+	1	2		4	2	2	2	1	8
FLINT	12	12	14	9	4	3	16	20	28	36	12	10

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* CWTIAD-WENNOL DORCHOG

Very rare visitor from southern Europe. BBRC: four previous records.

CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 3-4 July was the second site and county record.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* GWYLAN GOESDDU

Declining breeder in coastal areas from Gower to Caernarfonshire, except Meirionnydd (-35% during 1986-2015). Large numbers occur offshore on passage. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**659**	**641**
% of BirdTrack lists	**3%**	**3%**

Breeding counts: 4151 AON (*cf*. 3342). Increases noted at several colonies in 2019, but the long-term trend is still one of decline across Britain. As one example, the 83 AON on Ramsey is the lowest total since the RSPB acquired the

County/Site	AON	Previous count (year)
GOWER		
Mumbles Head	141	90 (2018)
PEMBROKE		
St Margaret's Island	225	243 (2018)
Castlemartin peninsula	1	2 (2018)
Skomer	1451	1236 (2018)
Ramsey	83	83 (2018)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	121	90 (2018)
Carreg y Llam	627	317 (2018)
Great Orme	854	751 (2018)
Little Orme	324	225 (2018)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB South Stack Cliffs	11	7 (2018)
Puffin Island	313	299 (2018)

island (*cf*. 489 AON in 1995).

Nest productivity: GOWER: 64 fledged young on Mumbles Pier on 5 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Skomer 0.68 fledged young/nest, similar to 2018 (0.66) and higher than the average for the last five years (0.62), but the trend remains one of substantial decline; adult survival (0.89) here slightly higher than 2018 (0.85); no young fledged on Ramsey from 83 AON; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, min. 31 fledged from 36 AON in the study plot (0.86), 52% above the 10-year mean; min. 101 fledged along the East Side, resulting in whole island productivity of 0.84.

Max. counts from coastal watchpoints:

Monthly counts	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Mumbles Pier/Head	9	152	150	290	370	400	444	460	290	66		
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey		2	235	488	157	126	191	204	258	137		

Notable non-breeding records: E.GLAMORGAN: 11 at Sker Pt on 10 May and 23 here on 17 May; 10 at St Donat's on 17 July and 12 here on 10 Aug.; GOWER: 40+ at Worm's Head on 6 June; 550 off Sedger's Bank, Port Eynon, on 12 Sept.; *c*.100 at Rhossili/Mewslade on 26 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 20 at Cefn Sidan on 5 May; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Strumble Head on 18 Aug., 2000 here on 31 Aug. and 1000 on 5 Sept.; 3032 off Skokholm on 10 Oct., 1299 here on 12 Oct. and 1030 on 16 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 2500 at Mwnt on 1 Sept.; 1200 at Ynyslas on 2 Sept.; 600 at Borth on 15 and 18 Sept.; 1000 at New Quay on 25 Sept.; BRECON: adult at Llangorse Lake on 28-30 March; MEIRIONNYDD: 30 at Broadwater on 11 Aug. and 52 here on 22 Sept.; 30 at Llandanwg on 30 Aug.; CAERNARFON: max. *c*.2000 off Braich-y-pwll on 17 Aug.; ANGLESEY: max. 1600 passed Cemlyn on 23 Aug. and 1100 on 24th.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini* GWYLAN SABINE

Uncommon visitor to the coast in autumn, numbers vary according to the frequency of westerly gales.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**20**	**11**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

All records: PEMBROKE: eight passed Strumble Head: singles on 31 Aug., 1 and 4 Sept., two on 5 Sept. and three on 29 Sept.; one in the Celtic Deep on 19 Sept.; three off Skokholm on 9 Oct.; one off Skomer on 9 Oct. and two here on 10 Oct.; CEREDIGION: singles passed Mwnt on 1 Sept., New Quay on 3 Sept. and Ynyslas on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: adult off Bardsey on 4 Sept., 1CY here on 28th and an adult on 2 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 1CY passed Cemlyn on 7 Sept. and 6 Oct.; FLINT: singles at Point of Ayr on 4-5 Sept.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* GWYLAN BONAPARTE

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 24 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: adult at Cardiff Bay on 22 April; 2CY here from 25 April to 3 May.

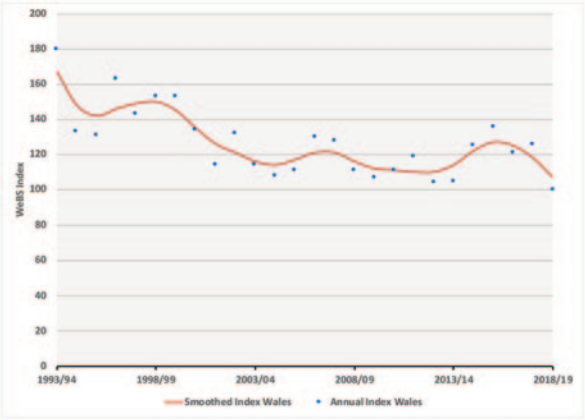
BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* GWYLAN BENDDU

Locally common breeding species. Abundant and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	6360	6954
% of BirdTrack lists	34%	31%

Breeding: the reports below show a mixed picture. Several sites on the North Wales coast increased on numbers and/or productivity compared to 2018, but colonies inland and farther south were smaller or have been lost. CARMARTHEN: 399 pairs at Penclacwydd (*cf.* 418 in 2018); CEREDIGION: 15 AON at Gorsgoch Pool was the only active colony of nine surveyed; BRECON: 14-22 birds at Brechfa Pool during March-May but breeding attempts (*cf*. 30-50 AON in 2018 but all failed); MONTGOMERY: *c*.200 pairs fledged *c*.300 young at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: 25 on territory at Llyn Oerfel on 21 April but only two nests visible on 9 June; at least 30 around the island in Llyn Fawnog on 27 May were almost certainly nesting; CAERNARFON: up to 30 birds at Morfa Madryn but no evidence of breeding; ANGLESEY: *c*.200 pairs fledged 200-300 young at Cemlyn; 31 AON at a site in western Anglesey; FLINT: 118 AON at

Wetland Bird Survey: Black-headed Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2019



Monthly max. counts from sites recording 1000 or more at least once:

>1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	360	660	1000	2000	85	1	212	500	1000	770	700	70
Cardiff Heliport foreshore	2000	300	200	100	30	236	400	450	150		300	
Rumney Gt Wharf		600		40	1			653	4000	1500	550	500
GOWER												
Blackpill	1025	989	459	50	10	38	629	843	227	270		
Upper Loughor est.			745				1004	1509	940	422		
Llanrhidian			14					1747				
Whiteford		92	29				690	1110	1000			
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	181	311	649	801	530	672	1127	151	60	135	197	106
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	873	2178	162			7			1753	728	570	866
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	1900	545	950							300		200+
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	500	1000	256					256	440	126	238	137
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	0	0	350	1	1	3	8	32	62	1208	0	0
Traeth Lafan	150	150	42	74	30+	380	1081	1882	3500	178	112	231
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	16,759	15,000	54	150	80	200	1000	1100	600	300	800	520

Shotton Steelworks, average 2.0 young/nest (*cf*. 82 AON and 1.22 young/nest in 2018); bred at Connah's Quay NR.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales (on page 89) shows a long-term decline; it was 36% lower in 2018/19 than its 1993/94 baseline. There were, however, large numbers on the Dee estuary in the first winter period (*cf*. max. 700 in Jan.-March 2018).

Large counts (1000+) not shown in the table on page 89: E.GLAMORGAN: 1000 at Rhymney est. on 15 Sept.; GOWER: 1000+ at Queens Dock on 7 March; PEMBROKE: 1200 in the eastern Cleddau est. in Feb.; CEREDIGION: up to 1500 at Llanrhystud/Llanon in March; 1000 at Ynyslas in July; ANGLESEY: *c*.1500 at the Cefni est. on 21 Oct.; FLINT: 1000 at Rhuddlan on 19 March; 2100 at Flint saltmarsh on 4 Aug.

Ringing: CARMARTHENSHIRE: Yellow TL5X at Burry Port harbour on 16 July had been ringed as a nestling at Mazowieckie, Poland, on 27 May 2017.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* GWYLAN FECHAN

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to the coast Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	130	85
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A poor year, with no count larger than nine, although up to four in Cardiff Bay through March and much of April was notable. All single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Bryn Bach CP on 31 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: adult at Cardiff Bay on 28 Feb. remained into March and joined by 2CY from 20th into April, four adults here on 8-9 April, two adults and 2CY here on 10th, and adult and 2CY present until 23 April; GOWER: 2CY at Loughor Bridge on 27 April; 2CY at Knab Rock/Bracelet Bay on 6 May; CARMARTHEN: 1CY at Pembrey harbour on 29 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. on 6 Jan.; Gann est. on 22-24 March; two in Fishguard harbour on 6 Sept.; nine passed Strumble Head, three on 31 Aug., singles on 1 and 7 Sept. and two on 29 Sept. and 6 Oct.; Skomer on 5 Nov.; two off Skokholm on 7 Nov.; CEREDIGION: nine at Mwnt on 1 Sept.; 3CY at Borth on 13 Sept.; adult at Mwnt on 29 Sept.; BRECON: adult at Llangorse Lake on 5 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 2CY at Ynys on 17 Oct.; Abergwynant on 31 Oct.; Glaslyn Marshes on 20 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 25 Feb. and three here on 19 Aug.; Bardsey on 1 and 6 Sept. and 12 Oct., and six here on 19 Oct.; Porthmadog on 20 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 8 June and 4 Sept.; 1CY at Silver Bay on 21 July; Inland Sea on 1 Aug.; Pt Lynas on 5 Sept.; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 14 Sept.; Penmon on 5 Nov.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 9 Feb.

LAUGHING GULL *Leucophaeus atricilla* GWYLAN CHWERTHINOG

Rare visitor from North America. BBRC: 18 records.

PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 10 June, presumed same on 26 June, was the first Welsh record since 2009.

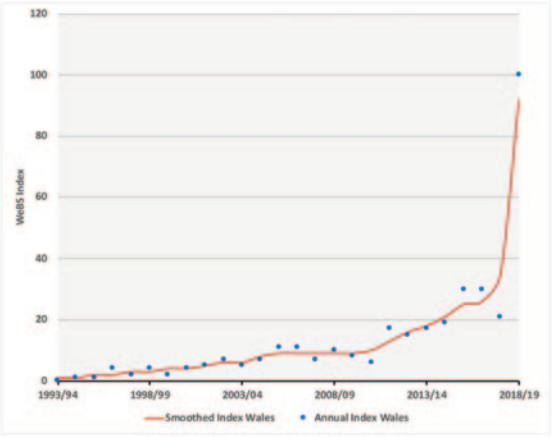
MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Increasingly common visitor, chiefly to coastal counties, especially in late summer. Small numbers summer (RBBP: at two sites in 2018) and occasionally breed. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	650	866
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: two adults and four 2CY seen regularly at Cemlyn, including mating behaviour until 10 May, but sightings diminished in mid-June with no indications of breeding; one paired with a Black-headed Gull and fledged two hybrid chicks at a site in western Anglesey.

Wetland Bird Survey: Mediterranean Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2019



Non-breeding: the exponential growth in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales continued to a record high in 2018/19, a remarkable 162% higher than the previous year.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 30 or more at least once:

>30 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Porthcawl to Rest Bay	8	3	2		1	1	2	3	13	32	20	10
GOWER												
Blackpill	31	60	100			80	436	354	227	270	49	
Bracelet Bay	20	70	14	1	1	8	108	70	78	100	102	78
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd			3	2	4	16	9		30	1		1
Pwll		4					46	312	81	109		
Pembrey harbour						140	204	77	9	3		
PEMBROKE												
Gann estuary	33	6	2					6	11	28	3	12
Skokholm		1	6					6	1	154	236	111
CEREDIGION												
Llanon/Llanrhystud/ Llansantffraed				35		78	136	620	15	125		
Aberystwyth						55	213	325	48			
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch Bay	5	10	5				23	35	1	1	1	5
Inland Sea	8	14	7	3		1	83	23		8	1	1

Other counts of 30+ birds: GOWER: 45 at Upper Loughor est. on 11 Feb. and 81 here on 10 March; 35 at Port Eynon on 12 Sept., 128 here on 17 Oct. and 50 on 20 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 500 at Cei Bach on 4 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 40+ at Porthdinllaen/Morfa Nefyn on 13 Sept.; 73 passed Bardsey on 3 Oct.

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: all at Burry Port harbour, Yellow ATLT on 7 Aug. was ringed as a nestling at Flamingo-Insel, Borken, Germany on 16 June 2018 and also recorded in Morocco on 15 Jan. 2019; Yellow AZVJ on 21 July was ringed as a nestling at Rehbach Gravel Pit, Leipzig, Germany on 11 June 2019; Yellow AYNN on 20 June was ringed as a nestling at Löbnitz Gravel Pit, Leipzig, Germany on 15 June 2018; White 3YKA on 16 July was ringed as a nestling at Antwerp, Belgium, on 20 June 2016; FLINT: Red PTU8 at RSPB

Oakenholt Marsh on 24 Feb. was ringed in Poland in 2015, seen in Germany, at Cardiff Bay (E.GLAMORGAN) and at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands in 2017.

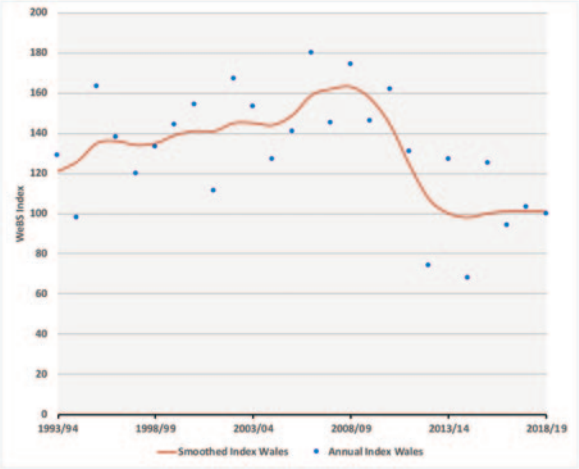
COMMON GULL *Larus canus* GWYLAN GWEUNYDD

Fairly common winter and passage visitor, especially to northeast Wales. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1641	1615
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	7%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows no signs of a recovery in Common Gull numbers following a sharp fall in the four years from 2009/10. However, there were several large counts from the Flintshire coast during the first winter period.

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2019



Max. monthly counts from sites recording 250 or more at least once:

>250 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	350	388								48	66	283
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	512	*c.*20	5	20	1		102+		*c.*285	30+	*c.*30	10
FLINT												
Gronant	2500	3500	*c.*760	217		1	6	36	*c.*125	400	422	*c.*1300
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	3662	1650	23	3	3			1	1	8	50	10
Rhuddlan	18	100	1500					10		60	80	

Other counts of 250+ birds: GOWER: 268 at Broughton Bay on 29 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 314 off Pwll on 21 Feb.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 500 at Teifi est. on 14 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 250 at Broadwater on 24 Feb; DENBIGH: 300 at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 11 Feb.; 350 at Llanrhaeadr, south of Denbigh, on 12 Feb.; 384 at Lleweni Watermeadows on 18 March; FLINT: counts >250 from nine sites on 16 dates to 26 March and at three sites on nine dates from 5 Aug. including those in table, and 1500 at Ffynnongroyw Bay on 5 Aug.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis* GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

Scarce (and recently declining) visitor from North America. WBRC: 421 records.

PEMBROKE: adult at Llys-y-fran Res. from 22 Dec. 2018 to 4 Feb., and again from 28 Nov.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FAWR

Fairly common and widespread in coastal areas in winter. Widely distributed breeding bird along rocky coastlines in single pairs or small colonies. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	3155	3525
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	18%

Breeding: the population appears to be stable in North Wales, but most counts in Pembrokeshire were lower than 2018.

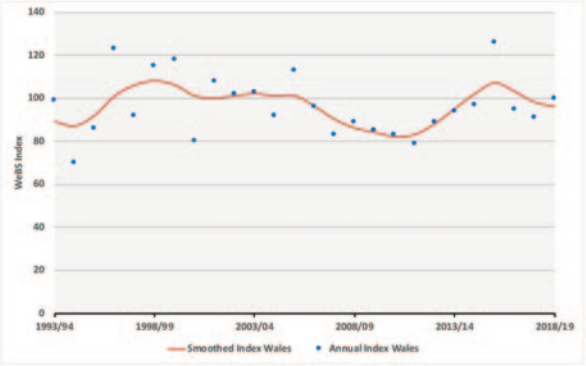
Breeding colony counts in 2019: 319 AON (*cf*. 363). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	AON	Previous count (year)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	6	10 (2018)
St Margaret's Island	32	55 (2006)
Castlemartin peninsula	3	3 (2018)
Skokholm	86	93 (2018)
Skomer	108	120 (2018)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	2	3 (2018)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr & Bach	50	50 (2018)
ANGLESEY		
Llyn Maelog	1	1 (2018)
The Skerries	26	24 (2018)
RSPB Valley Wetlands	4	4 (2018)
RSPB South Stack cliffs	1	0 (2017)

Other breeding records: E.GLAMORGAN: pair bred on Flat Holm; GOWER: pair bred at The Quays, Briton Ferry; MEIRIONNYDD: pair bred at Llyn Oerfel; three at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 28 April may have been on territory; ANGLESEY: bred at Llanlleiana; DENBIGH: at least four AON on the largest island at Llyn Brenig.

Nest productivity: PEMBROKE: on Skokholm, 1.43 fledged chicks/breeding pair (*cf*. 1.4 in 2018); on Skomer, 2.0 fledged chicks/breeding pair, the highest figure since at least 1996; CAERNARFON: two pairs nested on Bardsey and min. two young fledged; 40 nests with 32 juveniles on Ynys Gwylan Fawr and 10 nests with nine juveniles on Ynys Gwylan Bach; the combined productivity of the two islands was 0.82 (3.8% above the 2010-2019 mean); ANGLESEY: 27 young fledged from 26 AON on The Skerries (1.04).

Wetland Bird Survey: Great Black-backed Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2019



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has remained fairly stable for the last 25 years.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 30 or more at least once:

>30 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	3	18	5		8					49	66	35
GOWER												
Blackpill	12	7	14	45		25	56	13	22	15		
Upper Loughor estuary		12	2	6			8	32	2			
PEMBROKE												
Skokholm		30	132	144	125	101	126	174	152	111	62	5
Blucks Pool/Freshwater W.	26	1							31	12		
Cleddau estuary	13	50	14						34	12	8	16
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	30	9	9	9	5+	2	23	14	37	9	10	12
ANGLESEY												
Cemlyn		3		9	200	10	7	16	3	3	2	
FLINT												
Gronant	24	13	25	12	18	7	10	16	17	*c*.40	93	19

Other counts of 30+ birds: GWENT: 50 at Llandegfedd Res. on 1 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 60 on Nevern est. on 28 March; 55 on Skomer 30 April; 100 at the Gann est. on 5 Sept. and 120 here on 23 Oct.; 300 at Dale Airfield on 6 Sept. and 250 here on 20th; MEIRIONNYDD: 78 on Mawddach est. in March; CAERNARFON: 30 on the Great Orme on 21 April; ANGLESEY: 36 at Traeth Dulas on 7 April; DENBIGH: 32 at Llanddulas on 17 Jan.; FLINT: 54 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 1 Jan.; *c*.40 at RSPB Point of Ayr on 1 Sept. and 40 here on 31 Oct.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas of Wales, chiefly in mid-winter.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**109**	**6**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

A poor year by recent standards, with just eight individuals (*cf*. annual average 18 during 2010-19). All singles unless otherwise stated: PEMBROKE: 1CY off Wooltack Pt on 12 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 4CY at Llansantffraed on 24 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: imm. at Borth-y-gest, Porthmadog, on 3 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 1CY on Bardsey on 24 Oct.; ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack and Holyhead harbour on 1 April; three at Cemlyn on 12 May.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**131**	**4**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

A very poor year, with just seven individuals (*cf*. annual average 26 during 2010-19). All single 2CY birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Ynysyfro Res. on 20 Feb.; PEMBROKE: Sheepfields on 21 Jan.; adult at Newgale on 9 Feb.; adult on Skokholm on 14 Nov.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 16 and 19 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: Barmouth on 7 Feb., the first county record since 2009.

***L.g. kumlieni* (Kumlien's Gull / Gwylan yr Arctig Kumlien)**

Rare winter visitor, breeds on Baffin Island, Canada, and usually winters around the Great Lakes and Atlantic coast of North America. WBRC: eight previous records.

PEMBROKE: adult at Llys-y-fran Res. on 12 Jan.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* GWYLAN PENWAIG

Fairly common breeder in coastal areas, declining on natural nest sites but increasing on rooftops. Widespread in winter, including inland. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	10159	11518
% of BirdTrack lists	54%	51%

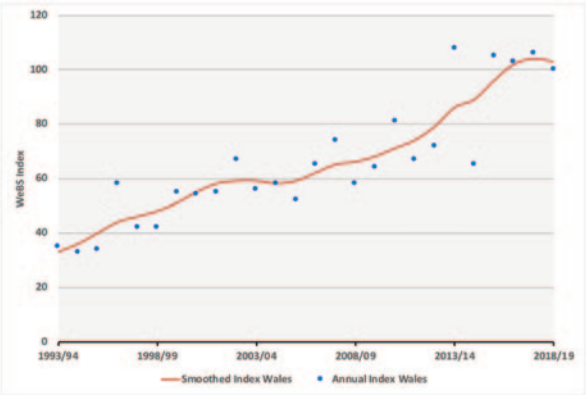
Breeding surveys indicate variable fortunes. There were declines at most of the regularly counted coastal colonies, but significant numbers of birds have probably moved to suburban/industrial roof-locations where they are less well monitored.

Coastal colony breeding counts in 2019: 4052 AON (*cf*. 4708). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	AON	Previous count (year)
E.GLAMORGAN		
Flat Holm	7	319 (2017)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	1832	1876 (2018)
St Margaret's Island	231	140 (2018)
Castlemartin peninsula	210	211 (2018)
Skokholm	288	320 (2018)
Skomer	297	365 (2018)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	345	417 (2018)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr & Bach	89	165 (2018)
ANGLESEY		
Porth Eilian	16	
The Skerries	665	788 (2018)
RSPB South Stack Cliffs	71	106 (2018)
RSPB Valley Wetlands	1	1 (2018)

Other breeding records: E.GLAMORGAN: at least one pair bred at Cwm Nash; GOWER: three pairs at Horse Cliff; bred at Rhossili and Pwlldu Head; ANGLESEY: bred in Porth Diana and Llanlleiana; DENBIGH: bred at Horton's Nose/Pont Draig, Llyn Brenig, Llanddulas, Mynydd Marian and RSPB Conwy.

Wetland Bird Survey: Herring Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2019



Nest productivity: PEMBROKE: on Skokholm 0.69 fledged chicks/ breeding pair from a sample of nests (0.73 in 2018); on Skomer it was 0.28 (0.36 in 2018); CAERNARFON: on Bardsey it was 0.71 and on Ynys Gwylan Fawr 0.76; ANGLESEY: at the Skerries it was 0.23.

Rooftop nesting: a study was undertaken in Birmingham and North Wales in 2019, the latter study area covering the coastal towns from Llandudno, CAERNARFON, to Queensferry, FLINT, and inland to Wrexham, DENBIGH (Woodward *et al*.

Rooftop breeding counts from bird reports in 2019: 752 AON

County/Site	AON		County/Site	AON
E.GLAMORGAN			CARMARTHEN	
Western Avenue Retail Park - Cardiff	7		Machynys	2
Homebase - Llanishen	5		Pwll School	1
Liberty Living student hall - Gabalfa	2		Burry Port harbour	1
Tyndall Industrial Park	1		PEMBROKE	
Grangetown	1		Pembroke Dock ind. estate	64
North Road - Gabalfa	1		MEIRIONNYDD	
Cardiff Prison	1		Aberdyfi	1
Cardiff Bay	1		CAERNARFON	
GOWER			Caernarfon	102
Afan Way – Port Talbot	5		Friction Dynamics, Griffiths Crossing	80
Port Talbot Docks	18		Bangor	41
Baglan Ind. Estate	16+		Conwy	89
The Quays, Briton Ferry	14		Deganwy	7
Endeavour Close Trading Estate	3		Llandudno	49
Port Talbot Hospital	2		ANGLESEY	
Port Talbot town centre	3		Beaumaris	43
Neath Abbey factory	1		DENBIGH	
Neath town centre	3		Colwyn Bay	24
Giants Grave, Briton Ferry	8		Kinmel Bay	19
Baglan	1		FLINT	
Brunel Docks, Briton Ferry	12		Prestatyn	50
Lidl, Gorseinon	Bred		Rhyl	74

In addition, MONTGOMERY: small numbers nested in Welshpool and Newtown.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 1000 or more at least once:

>1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay/Wetlands	700	800	1000	300	100	115	90	200	125	120	120	80
GOWER												
Whiteford	300	42	110	26			2500	910	*c.*850	3146		
Blackpill	873	1483	1143	420	143	322	808	1280	1400	701	211	
Weobley			7	27			1000	100	250	2745		
BRECON												
Pontsticill Res.											670	1100
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	*c.*500	668	234	254	100+	25	683	149	1018	293	314	316
FLINT												
Gronant	650	475	2000	327	381	374	142	682	551	305	4000	404
Point of Ayr	413	300	850	70	264	20	400	450	500	120	5000	50

Other large counts (1000+) or interesting records: GOWER: 2000+ at Queens Dock on 7 March; 1500+ at Tir John Tip on 9 April; *c.*2000 over Port Talbot Docks to Tata Steel roost on 19 Jan.; *c.*1000 at Crymlyn Burrows on 22 April and *c.*1600 here on 1 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Marloes Mere on 16 Oct.; DENBIGH: 1652 at Kinmel Bay on 7 Feb.

2020). It compared AON counts made from vantage points on the ground with those made during the same period from the air. In Birmingham, the aerial surveys found far greater numbers than those from the ground, whereas in North Wales the vantage point counts exceeded the aerial counts in 11 of the 16 survey areas (69%) for Herring Gull. There was nonetheless variability in North Wales, which included one square where 18 AONs were recorded by the aerial survey and none during the vantage point survey. The extrapolated Herring Gull population estimate for the whole North Wales study area was 4590 AON, of which 4345 were on the coast (mostly on homes) and 246 inland (mostly on industrial sites).

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales (page 95) has increased by 66% since 1993/94, although now shows signs of greater stability; the trend here is very different to declines in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and a smaller increase in England.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* GWYLAN BONTAIDD

Rare visitor from eastern Europe and central Asia. WBRC: nine previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY in Cardiff Bay on 3 Jan. and 27 Feb.; different 2CY here on 16 Jan., thought to have been the same as at Bettws, Gwent, in Dec. 2018.

2017. CEREDIGION: 1CY at Llanrhystud on 12 Aug.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* GWYLAN GOESFELEN

Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, especially East Glamorgan and Gower.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**96**	**99**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Contrary to the recent trend, fewer records in south Wales, and it remains uncommon in the north.

Number of individuals (mostly adults) recorded from most frequently reported sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	1	3	3	1			2	1		1	1	1
Cosmeston Lakes CP			1		1		2			1		
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	1		2	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Caerphilly Castle moat	1		1						1			
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd		1				1						2
PEMBROKE												
Fishguard harbour	1								1		1	1
Nevern estuary		1							1		1	
Gann estuary										1	1	1
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh							2	2	2	1		

Other records, all single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: min. two; E.GLAMORGAN: at Roath Park Lake, Cardiff, on 2 Jan.; Kenfig Pool on 14 Feb.; 1CY at Taff's Mead Embankment, Cardiff, on 15 July; Newton Pt on 5 and 21 Oct.; Roath Park Lake on 8 Nov.; GOWER: Castell-du, Upper Loughor est., on 13 Jan.; Gnoll

CP. on 11 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: adult at Pwll on 21 Feb.; 1CY at Kidwelly Marsh on 1 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Llanstadwell on 21 March; Grassholm on 3 Aug.; up to four at Llys-y-fran Res. in Jan.; two at Amroth on 25 Aug.; two at Slebech on 5 Sept.; Marloes Mere on 9 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 11 Aug.; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 8 Jan. and two here on 13 Jan.; possibly one of these at Brechfa Pool on 25 Jan., 20 Feb. and 8 March; Llangorse Lake on 28 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Porthmadog on 18 July; DENBIGH: Gresford Flash, Wrexham, on 4 Jan.; RSPB Conwy on 15 June; FLINT: Flint saltmarsh on 9 July and 4 Aug.; Gronant on 2 Nov.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FACH

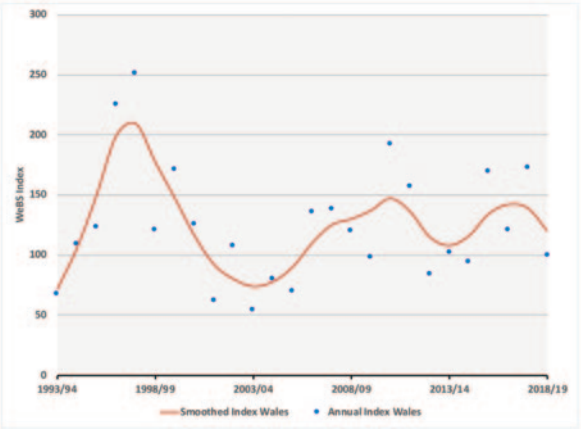
Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**5730**	**5984**
% of BirdTrack lists	**31%**	**26%**

Coastal breeding counts in 2019: 9375 AON is 7% lower (*cf*. 10,071). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	AON	Previous count (year)
E.GLAMORGAN		
Flat Holm	2055	2262 (2018)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	463	536 (2018)
St Margaret's Island	6	20 (2006)
Castlemartin Peninsula	18	18 (2018)
Skokholm	1008	1069 (2018)
Skomer	5216	5410 (2018)
CEREDIGION		
Cardigan island	323	476 (2017)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	164	177 (2018)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB South Stack Cliffs	6	9 (2018)
Skerries	115	92 (2018)
RSPB Valley Wetlands	1	2 (2018)

Wetland Bird Survey: Lesser Black-backed Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2019



Other breeding records: MEIRIONNYDD: 35 birds at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 28 April ; ANGLESEY: 1-2 nests at Port Eilian; DENBIGH: pair fledged two young at RSPB Conwy; bred at Llyn Brenig.

Nest productivity: PEMBROKE: Skokholm 0.27 fledged chicks/breeding pair (*cf*. 0.63 in 2018); Skomer, 0.66 (*cf*. 0.64 in 2018); CAERNARFON: min. 63 fledged on Bardsey (*cf*. 99 in 2018), productivity of 0.38; ANGLESEY: 24 fledged on The Skerries, 0.21/breeding pair.

Rooftop breeding counts from bird reports in 2019: min. 210 AON

County/Site	AON		County/Site	AON
E.GLAMORGAN			GOWER	
Western Avenue Retail Park - Cardiff	25		Afan Way – Port Talbot	12
Homebase - Llanishen	7		Port Talbot Docks	27
Colchester Avenue - Cardiff	2		Baglan Ind. Estate	13+
Tyndall Industrial Park - Cardiff	20		The Quays, Briton Ferry	8+
Canton	6		Endeavour Close Trading Estate	5
Ferry Road, Cardiff	4		Port Talbot Hospital	1
Cyncoed	3		Port Talbot town centre	2
Cardiff city centre	2		old Ford factory, Fabian Way - Swansea	Bred
CARMARTHEN			Neath town centre	1
Machynys	4		Giants Grave	6
PEMBROKE			Baglan	3
Pembroke Dock ind. estate	27		Swansea University campus	Bred
CAERNARFON			Lidl, Gorseinon	Bred
Caernarfon	17		DENBIGH	
Ysbyty Gwynedd	Bred		Kinmel Bay	Bred
Llandudno	2		FLINT	
			Prestatyn	3
			Rhyl	4

Rooftop nesting: a study was undertaken in Birmingham and North Wales in 2019, the latter study area covering the coastal towns from Llandudno, CAERNARFON, to Queensferry, FLINT, and inland to Wrexham, DENBIGH (Woodward *et al*. 2020). It compared AON counts made from vantage points on the ground with those made during the same period from the air. In Birmingham, the aerial surveys found far greater numbers than those from the ground, whereas in North Wales the vantage point counts exceeded the aerial counts in six of seven survey areas (86%) for Lesser Black-backed Gull. The extrapolated Lesser Black-backed Gull population estimate for the whole North Wales study area was 979 AON, of which 902 were on the coast (mostly on homes) and 77 inland (all on industrial sites).

Other breeding records: GWENT: nest on Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport; E.GLAMORGAN: in Cardiff, single pairs bred at Tremorfa, Gabalfa, University Hospital of Wales - Heath, Rhiwbina and Penarth Road; pair bred in Penarth; GOWER: probably bred at Tata Steel works and Brunel Dock, Briton Ferry; MONTGOMERY:

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 200 or more at least once:

>200 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	400	250	180	150	150	160	135	270	170	100	60	20
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	115	102	110	350	60	80	140	190	150	10	114	63
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	22	636	80						163	99	148	66
Skokholm		440	946	759	786	550	510	428	21	9	43	5
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	2000		500						870	1350		
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey		22	64	31	200	278	193	120	13	432		
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	519	200	15	10	32	150	32	24	100	45	100	34

a few pairs nested at Potters, near Welshpool Station.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey smoothed trend for Wales (page 98) has been stable overall since recovering from a sharp decline around the turn of the century.

Large counts (200+) not included in table on page 99: PEMBROKE: 300 at Rudbaxton on 19 Feb., 4 and 13 March; 500 on Skomer on 13 July; 500 at Little Milford on 6 Aug. and 250 here on 16 Oct.; 400 at the Gann est. on 20 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 251 off Ynyslas on 8 April; BRECON: 1000 near Y Byddwn WTSWW reserve, Llanhamlach, on 8 Jan. and 80-300 here on 10 dates in March; ANGLESEY: 200+ at South Stack on 18 April.

Ringing: FLINT: Blue DNX at R. Clwyd saltmarsh, Rhyl, on 24 July was ringed in Gloucestershire on 24 November 2008 but had not been reported since Jan. 2013.

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis* MOR-WENNOL BIGDDU

Passage migrant to most coastal areas. One breeding site (max. 2650 AON in 2015). Scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	628	781
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: 1200-1500 AON at Cemlyn, estimated from photographs, still only around half of its size in 2015; *c*.925 fledged from an estimated 1350 nests (1.46 fledglings/nest).

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales (not shown) has doubled since 1993/94. Counts of 50+ away from breeding colonies: GOWER: 85 at Port Eynon on 5 Sept.; 150 at Rhossili on 15 Sept.; *c*.200 at Rhossili/Mewslade on 26 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 91 at Fishguard harbour in Sept.; CEREDIGION: 60 at Glandyfi on 2 Aug.; 200 at Mwnt on 1 Sept.; 100 at New Quay on 25 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 60 at Glandyfi; 50 at Barmouth on 2 Aug.; 100 at Aberdysynni on 8 Aug.; 70 at Broadwater on 11 Aug.; 65 at Aberdysynni on 11 Aug.; 100 at Llandanwg on 30 Aug.; 132 at Tonfanau on 7 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 52+ at West Shore, Llandudno, on 29 April; 50+ at Machroes on 7 Aug.; ANGLESEY: *c*.75 at Llanlleiana on 12 May; 70 at Penmon on 20 May; FLINT: 155 at Rhyl seafront on 22 Aug.; 55 at Point of Ayr on 4 Sept.

Monthly max.	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Pembrey harbour			2		5	7	45	223	400	13		
PEMBROKE												
Strumble Head				1				99	206	24		
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas				18	15			400	300			
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey				4	3	4	5	177	214	11		
Porthdinllaen				20	1		1	62	1	3		
Foryd				70	2	46	18	42	2			
Traeth Lafan				*c*.200	50+	3	150+	107	40	2		
Rhos Pt				21	30+		*c*.40	280	110	1		
FLINT												
River Clwyd				*c*.180	74	42	291	*c*.525				1
Gronant				*c*.90	20	33	*c*.110	14	190	1		

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	26 April	Llandegfedd Res.			
E.GLAMORGAN	18 April	Penarth		5 Nov.	Newton Pt
GOWER	7 April	Port Eynon		17 Oct.	Port Eynon
CARMARTHEN	30 March	Pembrey harbour		10 Oct.	Pembrey harbour
PEMBROKE	**23 March**	**Porthlysgi**		**15 Dec.**	**Fishguard harbour**
CEREDIGION	29 March	Aberystwyth		12 Oct.	Teifi estuary
MEIRIONNYDD				13 Oct.	Glaslyn estuary
CAERNARFON	1 April	Bangor		25 Oct.	Morfa Madryn
ANGLESEY	28 March	Beddmanarch Bay		18 Nov.	Newborough
DENBIGH	15 April	RSPB Conwy & Rhos-on-Sea		28 Sept.	Colwyn Bay
FLINT	5 April	Rhyl		1 Dec.	Rhyl

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* MOR-WENNOL FACH

Breeds in Flintshire – RBBP: 192 young fledged from 172 nests at two sites in 2018. Elsewhere, uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant to other coasts. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**70**	**74**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: FLINT: 162 pairs bred at Gronant, fledging a record 206 young (1.27/nest); three pairs nested at RSPB Point of Ayr, fledging six young.

Non-breeding: the numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey in Wales (not shownb) have halved since 2010/11, returning to levels last seen in 2001/02.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
CARMARTHEN				13 Sept.	Pembrey harbour
PEMBROKE				**29 Sept.**	**Strumble Head**
CEREDIGION	8 May	RSPB Ynys-hir		25 Sept.	New Quay & Ynyslas
CAERNARFON				28 Aug.	Rhos Pt
FLINT	**30 April**	**Gronant**		5 Sept.	Point of Ayr

All other records, singles unless otherwise stated: CARMARTHEN: 1CY at Pembrey harbour on 28-29 Aug., two on 9-10 Sept., three on 11th and one remained to 13th; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 29 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 9 May; Borth on 13 Sept.; BRECON: three at Llangorse Lake on 17 June; CAERNARFON: passed Bardsey on 15 Aug. and another on 16th; six at Rhos Pt on 28 Aug.; DENBIGH: three at Horton's Nose on 7 July; FLINT: max. counts at Point of Ayr, 550 on 4 Aug., *c.*200 on 7 Aug., 150 on 12 Aug., 40 on 23 Aug. and 36 on 4 Sept.

Ringing: FLINT: 271 chicks metal-ringed at Gronant (a site record), of which 89 were also colour-ringed. There were 360 resightings of 213 individuals ringed in previous years. Among these, Yellow ZBA, a male, was resighted on a nest at 26 years old, a new Britain & Ireland longevity record for the species.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* MOR-WENNOL WRIDOG

Occasional breeder on Anglesey – RBBP: one pair in 2018. Uncommon passage visitor to other coasts. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	37	12
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: two pairs bred on The Skerries, each fledging two young.

All other records, singles unless otherwise stated: CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 9 June; Pembrey harbour on 13 Sept. (first county records since 2013); PEMBROKE: five off Strumble Head on 31 Aug. and one here on 1 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 8 May; CAERNARFON: 1CY off Bardsey on 19 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 4 May, one here mated with a Common Tern on 13 May and two on 14 May; Rhosneigr on 24 June; Foel Ferry on 7 July; Trearddur Bay on 9 July; two at Traeth Lligwy on 22 Aug.

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: the bird at Penclacwydd was colour-ringed as a nestling at Rockabill Island, Co. Dublin, Ireland on 7 July 2016.

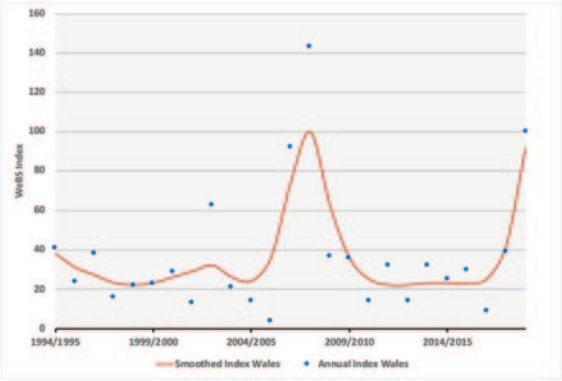
COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* MOR-WENNOL GYFFREDIN

Four breeding colonies. Passage migrant to other coasts and sometimes inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	341	381
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: 914 AON, an 8% increase on 2018 (*cf*. 846) ANGLESEY: 301 AON on The Skerries (*cf*. 302 in 2018); 191 AON at a site in western Anglesey (*cf*. 185 in 2018); 10 pairs at Cemlyn fledged 5-8 young (*cf*. 10 pairs in 2018); FLINT: 412 AON at Shotton Steelworks (*cf*. 349 AON in 2018), fledging 409 young (0.99/nest).

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Tern in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey does not represent the breeding population especially well, but 2018/19 was notable in having the second highest reporting-rate since terns have been monitored. Counts at Sker Pt, East Glamorgan, and at Ynyslas, Ceredigion, on 8 May were exceptional for both counties.

Large counts (10+ birds) elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: 12 up-channel at Sker Pt on 7 May and 500+ here on 8 May; *c*.20 down-channel at Lavernock Pt on 9 May; GOWER: 15 at Port Eynon Bay on 12 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Burry Port/Pembrey harbour on 12 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 10 off Strumble Head on 31 Aug. and 20 here on 29 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 16 at Aberystwyth on 16 April; 1500 at Ynyslas on 8 May and 250 here on 9 May; RADNOR: six records, in April, June and Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 at Llandanwg on 30 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 10 at Porthdinllaen on 21 Aug.; 10+ off Rhos Pt on 27 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 150 at Cemlyn on 7 and 9 May; 101 in the Irish Sea on 20 May; 20+ off Pt Lynas on 27 May; DENBIGH: 80 at Horton's Nose on 24 Aug.; 10 at Rhos-on-Sea on 27 Aug.; FLINT: 100 at Point of Ayr on 4 Aug.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	9 May	Llandegfedd Res.		22 Sept.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	18 April	Cardiff Bay		9 Sept.	Llanishen/Lisvane Res.
GOWER	12 June	Port Eynon Bay		14 Sept.	Whiteford /Burry Pill
CARMARTHEN				26 Sept.	Burry Port/Pembrey harbour
PEMBROKE	9 May	Skokholm		29 Sept.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	16 April	Aberystwyth		4 Oct.	New Quay
BRECON	24 April	Dolymynach Res.		23 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MEIRIONNYDD				22 Sept.	Broadwater
CAERNARFON	15 April	Clynnog Fawr		**6 Oct.**	**Rhos Pt**
ANGLESEY	**6 April**	**Beddmanarch Bay**		28 Sept.	Pt Lynas
DENBIGH				27 Aug.	Rhos-on-Sea
FLINT	18 April	Connah's Quay NR		16 Sept.	Bagillt Bank

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* MOR-WENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Three colonies, all on Anglesey. Passage migrant to other coasts, but generally scarcer than Common Tern. Scarce inland. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**281**	**244**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**1%**

Breeding: 3221 AON, around 2% fewer than in 2018 (*cf.* 3987). ANGLESEY: 2814 AON on The Skerries (*cf*. 3435 in 2018); 382 AON at a site in western Anglesey (*cf*. 535 in 2018), 40% below the peak in 2012); 25 pairs at Cemlyn (*cf*. 14-20 in 2018) fledged *c*.12-15 young.

Large counts (10+) elsewhere: GWENT: 29 off Goldcliff Pt on 27 April and 22 here on 17 May; PEMBROKE: 28 off Strumble Head on 10 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 50 at Ynyslas on 16 April; 18 at New Quay on 27 April, 75 here on 8 May and 20 on 9 May; 20 at Mwnt on 1 Sept.; CAERNARFON: peaks of 263 off Bardsey on 17 Aug., 147 on 20 Aug. and 35 on 5 Sept.; 13 off Braich y Pwll on 19 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 20+ at Pt Lynas on 27 May; 25+ at Moelfre on 20 Aug.

Arctic Tern (Julian Hughes)

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	27 April	Goldcliff Pt		25 Aug.	Black Rock
E.GLAMORGAN	7 May	Sker Pt		4 Oct.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER	12 June	Port Eynon		12 Sept.	Port Eynon
CARMARTHEN				8 Oct.	Burry Port/Pembrey harbour
PEMBROKE				1 Oct.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	**16 April**	**Ynyslas**		6 Oct.	Mwnt
MEIRIONNYDD				24 Aug.	Aberdysynni
CAERNARFON	26 April	Bardsey		**11 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	17 April	Llyn Coron		7 Sept.	The Range
DENBIGH	29 April	RSPB Conwy		19 Aug.	Llanddulas

Inland: BRECON: one at Llangorse Lake on 17 April, nine here on 27 April following Storm Hannah, some of which may have been in a flock of five at Dolymynach Res. the same day; RADNOR: singles in April and May; MONTGOMERY: one at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 17 Aug.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* CORSWENNOL ADEINWEN
Rare visitor from southeast Europe. WBRC: 43 previous records.

FLINT: adult at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 24-25 May.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* CORSWENNOL DDU
Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties but also on inland waters; spring records are usually fewer in number but there are substantial influxes in some years. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**17**	**81**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

There was an influx of small numbers in spring, with *c*.86 birds across Wales on 7-9 May. E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Kenfig Pool, six at Sker Pt and six at Lavernock Pt on 7 May; nine at Sker Pt, seven at Lavernock Pt, two at Kenfig Pool, one at Breaksea Pt and five inland at Rhaslas Pond (first site record) on 8 May; one at Sker Pt on 9 May; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 9 May; CEREDIGION: 18 at Ynyslas on 8 May and one here the next day; BRECON: 15 at Llangorse Lake on 8 May; RADNOR: one at Llanbwchllyn lake on 8-9 May; two other records; ANGLESEY: one at RSPB Valley Wetlands on 9 May; MONTGOMERY: one at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 8-9 May; DENBIGH: two at RSPB Conwy on 8 May and one on 9 May.

Autumn records, singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 9 and 23 Sep.; CARMARTHEN: three at Penclacwydd on 22 Sept.; Pembrey harbour on 26 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 1 Sept., nine here on 31 Aug. and two on 5 Sept.; two off Teifi est. on 12 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 5 Sept.; Borth on 18 Sept.; New Quay on 25 Sept.; BRECON: 36 at Llangorse Lake on 24 Aug. and 23 here on 25th; another here on 12 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 1CY at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 27 July; CAERNARFON: two passed Bardsey on 10 Aug., another on 25 Aug. and two on 28 Aug.; two at Rhos Pt on 28 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 11 and 26 Aug.; six passed Pt Lynas on 5 Sept.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* SGIWEN FAWR

Regular on autumn passage along the west coast. Numbers vary annually, the highest counts dependent on the strength and frequency of onshore gales. Small numbers in spring, and occasionally in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	69	63
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: four off Goldcliff Pt on 27 April; three by the second Severn crossing on 10 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: St Donat's Bay on 17 July; Porthcawl on 10 and 31 Aug.; Lavernock Pt on 29 Sept.; GOWER: Whiteford on 27 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan on 5 May; PEMBROKE: 1-3 off Skokholm on six dates between 13 and 31 Aug., two here on 2 and 11 Sept., then daily from 23 Sept (nine) to 29th (12) and on nine dates during 1-16 Oct. (five on 8 and 11 Oct.); four off Ramsey on 29 Sept. and two here on 4 Oct.; 140 passed Strumble Head: 41 in Aug., 91 in Sept. (max. 47 on 29th), seven in Oct. and one in Nov.; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 30 March; Ynyslas on 16 April and four here on 27 April; two at New Quay on 27 April; four passed Mwnt on 1 Sept., three here on 4 Sept.; Teifi est. on 4 Sept.; two at New Quay on 19 Sept.; Aberystwyth on 21 Sept.; three off New Quay on 4 Oct.; three off Mwnt on 6 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: Machynlleth on 17 April; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 25 April and two here on 27th; also on 10 Aug. then daily on 15-23 Aug. (max. eight on 20th); on eight dates in Sept., max. 21 on 4th and 24 on the 28th; nine records of 1-3 birds in Oct., the last on 16th; Braich y Pwll on 17 Aug.; Criccieth on 30 Aug.; Great Orme on 5 Sept.; Rhos Pt on 7 Sept.; Morfa Nefyn on 12 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 11 off The Range on 28 April; 15 off Cemlyn (six in Aug. and nine in Sept.); 23 passed Pt Lynas in Sept. (max. 19 on 5th); from various sites, one in Aug., seven in Sept. and one in Oct.; DENBIGH: Llanddulas on 19 Aug.; Colwyn Bay on 28 Sept.; FLINT: Rhyl on 22 Aug. and 5 Sept.; Connah's Quay NR on 25 Aug.; Point of Ayr on 4 Sept.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* SGIWEN FRECH

Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	17	19
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records are singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 8 and 19 May; PEMBROKE: 13 passed Strumble Head, five on 31 Aug., four in Sept. and four in Oct.; CEREDIGION: two off New Quay on 25 Sept.; CAERNARFON: three off Bardsey on 26 April and four here on 27th; off Bardsey on 23 and 28 Aug., on six dates in Sept. (incl. seven on 4th, two on 5-6th and four on 27th) and on six dates in Oct. (incl. two on 6th and four on 10th); 1CY off Rhos Pt on 7 Sept. and two dark phase birds here on 9 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 27 passed The Range on 28 April; three in the Irish Sea on 20 May; one off The Range on 27 May; 1CY off Cemlyn on 23 Aug. and two adults on 26th; two off Pt Lynas on 5 Sept.; FLINT: Point of Ayr on 4 Sept.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage bird off coastal counties; uncommon in spring, more numerous in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	65	89
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
GWENT	4						
E.GLAMORGAN		5	1	1	7		
GOWER			1		1	3	3
CARMARTHEN	3					6	
PEMBROKE							
Strumble Head					44	198	17
elsewhere					7	6	18
CEREDIGION							
Mwnt				96 between 10 Aug. and 6 Oct.			
elsewhere	7	1				28	
MEIRIONNYDD	2				1		
CAERNARFON							
Bardsey	14				32	56	8
elsewhere					36+	2	
ANGLESEY							
Pt Lynas					3	25	
Cemlyn		1			28	13	1
elsewhere		4		2	5	3	
DENBIGH					1		

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly along the western seaboard during westerly gales. Unusual in spring. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**6**	**9**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

All records were singles unless otherwise stated: GOWER: at Port Eynon on 15-16 Oct.; PEMBROKE: from Strumble Head, singles on 11 and 31 Aug., 4 and 5 Sept., two on 1 and 29 Sept., and on 6 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Borth on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: three 1CY off Bardsey on 28 Sept., singles on 29 Sept. and 10 Oct.; ANGLESEY: The Range on 28 April and Pt Lynas on 5 Sept.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* GWYLOG

Abundant breeding species in southwestern and northwestern counties. Moves away to moult after breeding and returns to vicinity of colonies as early as December. The count unit is adults on land (AOL). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**876**	**837**
% of BirdTrack lists	**4%**	**4%**

Non-breeding counts (5+): GOWER: *c*.40 at Rhossili/Mewslade on 22 May; *c*.150 at Rhossili on 9 June; 19 at Port Eynon on 7 July and 24 here on 17 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: seven off Cefn Sidan on 4 May; MEIRIONNYDD: eight off Aberdysynni on 1 June; CAERNARFON: 400+ passed Morfa Nefyn on 9 April and on 11 May (probably from Carreg y Llam); ANGLESEY: *c*.200 at Pt Lynas on 31 Jan.; 115+ at Moelfre on 11 Jan.; 750 at Llanlleiana on 12 May; DENBIGH: 35 at Rhos-on-Sea on 20 Feb. and 20 here on 27 Aug.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey and the Great Orme, CAERNARFON:

Monthly max.	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Bardsey		650	2500	300	700	500	1000	14	45	20
Great Orme	300	300+	*c*.180	250+	60+	250+			15	

Breeding counts in 2019: 82,721 AOL, a 2% increase *(cf*. 81,214 in 2018), the long-term trend is still one of increase. Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	AOL	Previous count (year)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	72	57 (2018)
St Margaret's Island	1759	1806 (2018)
Castlemartin Peninsula	18,358	18,990 (2018)
Skokholm	4654	4316 (2018)
Skomer	28,798	24,788 (2017)
Ramsey	4497	4403 (2015)
CAERNARFON		
Carreg y Llam	11,000	13,662 (2018)
Bardsey	1413	1112 (2018)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr & Bach	81	59 (2018)
Great Orme	1843	2027 (2018)
Little Orme	348	573 (2018)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB N. & S. Stack Cliffs	6292	5243 (2018)
Puffin Island	3606	4178 (2018)

Other breeding records: GOWER: 300+ at Worm's Head on 6 June.

Nesting productivity estimates: PEMBROKE: 0.74 fledged chicks/ breeding pair on Skomer (*cf*. 0.76 in 2018); CAERNARFON: at least 63 fledging-size chicks in a sample plot of 110 AOL at Bae Felen, Bardsey (0.57).

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* LLURS

Fairly common breeder on cliffs and islands of northwest and southwest Wales. Some disperse south in winter but others remain in Welsh waters. The count unit is adults on land (AOL). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**770**	**661**
% of BirdTrack lists	**4%**	**3%**

Breeding counts: 10,533, a 6% increase at these sites (*cf*. 9924) suggests that the long-term trend is still probably one of increase. Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	AOL	Previous count (year)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	90	116 (2018)
St Margaret's Island	235	287 (2018)
Castlemartin peninsula	1500	1430 (2018)
Skokholm	2755	2585 (2018)
Ramsey	1599	1222 (2015)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	1917	1972 (2018)
Carreg y Llam	519	c.653 (2018)
Ynysoedd Gwylan	*13	44 (2018)
Great Orme	255	189 (2018)
Little Orme	24	27 (2018)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB South Stack Cliffs	1192	994 (2018)
Puffin Island	434	405 (2018)

* Count for Ynys Gwylan Fawr only as access to Ynys Gwylan Bach was not possible.

Other breeding records: GOWER: 20+ at Worm's Head on 6 June; ANGLESEY: bred at Llanlleiana, *c*.100 individuals there on 12 May.

Nesting productivity estimates: PEMBROKE: 0.63 chicks/breeding pair on Skokholm *(cf*. 0.69 in 2018); 0.63 on Skomer, the highest since at least 2001.

Non-breeding counts: GOWER: seven off Sedgers Bank, Port Eynon, on 12 Sept.; five in Bracelet Bay on 14 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: one at Pembrey harbour on 2 May; two at Cefn Sidan on 4 May; three at Pembrey harbour on 18 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 400 off the Dyfi est. on 29 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Aberdysynni on 22 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 120 off the Great Orme on 26 Jan. and *c*.110 here on 28 March; ANGLESEY: 5000+ at RSPB South Stack on 9 July; DENBIGH: six flew west at Colwyn Bay on 2 May; FLINT: two off Point of Ayr on 4 Sept.

Monthly maximum counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

Monthly maxima	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Bardsey		745	500	1412	1060	1800	2500	60	2760	831

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle* GWYLOG DDU

Localised and uncommon breeding species, primarily on Anglesey. Small numbers elsewhere outside the breeding season. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	251	269
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding season: PEMBROKE: at least one pair probably bred in Fishguard harbour (up to three birds here in April-July); ANGLESEY: bred in Holyhead harbour (present all year), max. nine on 3 April; 19 at Fedw Fawr colony on 1 May; one at Puffin Island on 10 June.

All records away from above sites, singles unless otherwise stated: CAERNARFON: exceptional numbers around Bangor Pier between 9 Jan. and 14 March (max. 14 on 8 Feb.) and off the Great Orme from 19 Jan. to 13 Sept. (max. 14 on 1 March); Llanfairfechan on 1 Jan. and four here on 18 May; North Shore, Llandudno, on 1 May; Bardsey on 28 April and 2 Oct.; ANGLESEY: eight at Pt Lynas on 15 Jan.; five at Cemlyn on 28 March; 1-2 at many other coastal sites; DENBIGH: Colwyn Bay on 2 May.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* PAL

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	346	320
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	1%

Locally abundant on offshore islands and a few western headlands. Count unit is Apparently Occupied Burrows (AOB) or Adults on Land (AOL). Wales Red listed.

Puffin (Cameron Sharp)

Breeding counts in 2019: 32,693 was a 20% reduction on counts in 2018 *(cf*. 41,013), driven mainly by the large colonies off Pembrokeshire, albeit productivity this year was above the five-year average. Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	AOB	Previous count (year)
PEMBROKE		
St Margaret's Island	1	2 (2018)
Stackpole Head	1	5 (2018)
Skokholm	7447	8,762 (2018)
Skomer	24,108	30,895 (2018)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	141	132 (2018)
Ynysoed Gwylan	*619	697 (2018)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB South Stack Cliffs	15	7 (2018)
Puffin Island (AOL)	29	24 (2018)
The Skerries	602	489 (2018)

*dense vegetation in some areas of Ynys Gwylan Fawr meant the count is a minimum.

Nesting productivity: PEMBROKE: 0.76 fledged chicks/breeding pair on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.75 in 2018); 0.73 on Skomer (*cf*. 2014-18 average 0.67).

Other counts around breeding sites: ANGLESEY: 18 at The Range on 24 May and 27 here on 1 July; 24 at Cemlyn on 29 June.

Non-breeding, all single birds: GOWER: Worm's Head on 6 June; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 17 May; New Quay on 27 May and 26 June; Aberporth on 26 June; Mwnt on 11 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 21 April; Edern on 11 May; North Shore, Llandudno, on 29 June; Aberdaron on 7 July.

Monthly maximum counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
Bardsey	23	71	165	178	185	1	4

Ringing: PEMBROKE: one ringed on Skomer on 26 June 1977 (when it was at least three years old) was resighted here on 17 July 2019. It becomes the oldest Puffin in the British & Irish ringing scheme, at a minimum 42 years and 21 days old.

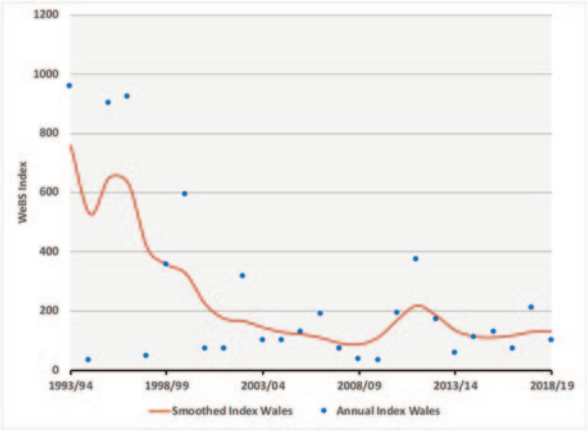
RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Localised coastal winter visitor and passage migrant, sometimes in large concentrations. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**253**	**288**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**1%**

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has remained stable for 20 years, having fallen during the 1990s, but many open coasts are not routinely counted.

Wetland Bird Survey: Red-throated Diver in Wales, 1993 - 2019



Max. counts not included in the table: E.GLAMORGAN: 14 off Sker on 17 Nov. and six here on 9 Dec.; GOWER: six in Baglan Bay off Crymlyn Burrows on 1 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 17 at Telpyn Pt on 27 March and 16 here on 30 March; PEMBROKE: 10 in St Brides Bay, six in Fishguard harbour and four off Strumble Head in Jan.; nine off the north coast in March; five in St Brides Bay and four off the south coast in Dec.; CEREDIGION: 18 at Llansantffraidd-Aberaeron in Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: 25 off Morfa Harlech on 3 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 15 off Criccieth on 11 Jan.; 11 passed Bardsey on 1 March; ANGLESEY: 10 off Traeth Yr Ora, Dulas, on 22 Feb.; 10 off Moelfre on 23 Feb.;

Counts from the main sites, with 20 or more at least once:

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas	1	3	4	7	25	7	3	3	1	3	4	7
Aberystwyth	22	3	2	2		5	31	1	22	3	2	2
CAERNARFON												
*Caernarfon Bay	34+	5	2	55							10	
Traeth Lafan	*c*.25	3	13	44	19				4		2	20+
Penrhyn Bay – Rhos Pt	9	68	7+						1	1	23	6
DENBIGH												
Llanddulas	*c*.30			2					1	3		5

* Fort Belan to Trefor pier.

10 off The Range on 14 Jan. and 14 here on 5 May; 16 off Newborough on 18 Nov.; 10+ off Cemlyn on 30 Nov.; DENBIGH: 24 between Colwyn Bay and Rhos Pt on 18 Feb.; 60 at Rhos-on-Sea on 20 Feb.; FLINT: one off Gronant on 2 Dec.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	62	85
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records, singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 6 Jan.; GOWER: Rhossili Bay on 1 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Fishguard harbour on 10 Jan.; two at Newgale on 20 Jan.; Little Haven on 21 Jan. and 9 Feb.; Nolton Haven on 30 Jan.; Strumble Head on 6 March; Whitesands on 26-27 March; two at Goultrop Roads on 31 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 20 Jan.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 1 Jan.; New Quay on 30 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 12 Jan. and 25 Feb., possibly same off the Little Orme on 25 Jan. and 2 Feb.; Llanfairfechan on 2 April and 1 May; Porth Colmon on 28 March and Aberdesach on 1 April; Little Orme on 5 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Inland Sea and Holyhead on many dates between 1 Jan. and 26 March; Cemlyn on 11 Jan.; Benllech on 27 March; Cemlyn on 18 Dec.; DENBIGH: Kinmel Bay on 10 Feb.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* TROCHYDD MAWR

Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded offshore in small numbers annually. Scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	235	275
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Selected notable counts: PEMBROKE: max. 18 off Skokholm on 2 Dec.; CEREDIGION: one at Llyn Egnant on 14 and 17 Nov. was only the second inland record following one at Nant y Moch Res. in Nov./Dec. 1990; MONTGOMERY: one at Lake Vyrnwy on 10 Dec. was probably the first county record since 2005.

Approx. monthly totals for each county:

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN						1					2	1
GOWER	6	2	3								1	5
CARMARTHEN	2	2	2		1							3
PEMBROKE	12	4	9	7	1			1	2	3	2	26
CEREDIGION	2	1		1		1				1	3	1
MONTGOMERY												1
MEIRIONNYDD	1									1		2
CAERNARFON												
*Caernarfon Bay	1	2		46	3							
Traeth Lafan	1	1	1		1						1	1
Bardsey				1					1	1		
other sites	3	1		4							4	2
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea	2	1									1	3
Holyhead	1	1	1									1
The Range	1	1	1	1	1							
Cemlyn	1	1	1							2	2	1
other sites	7	2	4		1				1		4	9
DENBIGH	1		1									1

* Fort Belan to Trefor pier

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* PEDRYN DRYCIN

Breeds on Bardsey and on six Pembrokeshire islands (c.2500 pairs). The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	120	31
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: 89 transect responses on Skokholm (*cf*. 83 in 2018); estimated productivity on Skokholm was 0.74 fledged chicks/breeding pair (*cf*. 0.55 in 2018); CAERNARFON: seven caught on Bardsey on 14 June, 23 on 29th, 21 on 1 July and eight on 2nd, 12 on 24 Aug. and two on 27th. Adults heard in June and July. One nest in nest-box failed after the chick hatched.

Non-breeding records were singles unless otherwise stated, most records during and following stormy conditions on 10 Aug.: E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt and Sker Pt on 10 Aug.; two at Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 11 Aug.; Lavernock Pt on 28 Sept.; GOWER: Port Eynon on 19 July; CARMARTHEN: Burry Port harbour on 10 Aug., the first county record since 2012; PEMBROKE: St Davids Head on 20 Sept.; Strumble Head on 10 Aug. and five here on 11 Aug.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 10 Aug. and three here on 11 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 27 April.

Monthly maximum counts on Skokholm, PEMBROKE:

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Skokholm	12	120	158	181	70	15	1

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* PEDRYN-DRYCIN LEACH

Uncommon autumn visitor, most frequent off the North Wales coast and Cardigan Bay during storms in September. Wales Amber listed.

Almost all records were in the first week of September: PEMBROKE: 19 off Strumble Head on 1 Sept., one on 4th, three on 5th and two on 7th; one in Fishguard harbour on 5 Sept.; CEREDIGION: one at Mwnt on 1 Sept., 10 here on 4th and two on 5th; two off Teifi est. on 4 Sept.; CAERNARFON: three passed Bardsey on 4 Sept., singles here on 5th, 17th and 28th; one off Rhos Pt on 5 Sept., 11 here on 7 Sept., one passed Penrhyn Bay on 6 Sept. and three (possibly some of the Rhos Pt birds) passed the Great Orme on 7 Sept.; ANGLESEY: two off Pt Lynas on 5 Sept.; eight passed Cemlyn on 7 Sept.; FLINT: singles at Greenfield Dock and Point of Ayr on 4 Sept.; Rhyl on 5 Sept.; five off Point of Ayr on 5 Sept.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* ADERYN DRYCIN Y GRAIG

Fairly common but declining breeding species. Frequent offshore in most months. The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	839	981
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Breeding: the trend around much of Wales, confirmed by long-term monitoring, is one of gradual decline over the last 20 years. However, estimated productivity on the Pembrokeshire islands was higher than in 2018: 0.62 fledged chicks/breeding pair on Skokholm (*cf.* 0.49) and 0.51 on Skomer (*cf*. 0.3), the highest recorded at the latter site since 2005. The number of pairs on Bardsey was 30% lower than in 2017 and 27% below the 10-year average; chick productivity was not monitored but was suspected to be low.

Breeding colony counts in 2019: 698 AOS, 9% fewer than in 2019 *(cf*. 765). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	AOS	Previous count (year)
GOWER		
Worm's Head	10+	2 in 2018
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	84	81 in 2018
St. Margaret's Island	20	19 in 2018
Castlemartin peninsula	64	81 in 2018
Skokholm	198	217 in 2018
Ramsey	226	269 in 2018
CAERNARFON		
Great Orme	30	33 in 2018
Little Orme	4	0 in 2018
Carreg y Llam	2	2 in 2018
Bardsey	14	14 in 2018
ANGLESEY		
Puffin Island	16	30 in 2018
RSPB South Stack Cliffs	14	11 in 2018
DENBIGH		
Llanddulas Quarries	16	6 in 2018

Other breeding records: E.GLAMORGAN: 51 pairs between Monknash and Southerndown on 20 April; juveniles seen later in season; GOWER: *c*.12-19 AOL at Rhossili Cliffs in late winter and early spring; ANGLESEY: eight nesting birds at Bull Bay on 26 May; *c*.4 AOS between Lligwy and Moelfre on 25 May; bred at Llanlleiana (*c*.10 AOL on 12 May).

Other notable records/county maxima: GWENT: seven off Goldcliff Pt on 27 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 11 off Porthcawl and 40 at St Donat's on 10 Aug.; GOWER: 15 near Bluepool, Broughton Bay, on 21 March; CARMARTHEN: five at Telpyn Pt on 4 Jan. and 13 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 53 passed Mwnt on 11 Aug.; 'blue phase' bird passed New Quay on 27 April; CAERNARFON: 37 on the Great Orme on 12 Jan. and 40+ here on 23 Feb.; *c*.25 off the Little Orme on 17 Dec.; *c*.35 off Braich-y-pwll on 17 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 45 at The Range on 31 July; 118 off North Stack on 9 Feb.; DENBIGH: 14 at Llanddulas on 12 Jan. and 10 here on 11 Dec.

Monthly max. counts at Bardsey, CAERNARFON and at Skokholm, PEMBROKE:

	Feb	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	11	22	82	19	31	20	55	86	3		
Skokholm	90	201	153	138	114	112	105	113	6	283	173

ZINO'S/FEA'S/DESERTAS PETREL Pterodroma madeira/feae/deserta

PEDRYN MADEIRA/CABO VERDE/DESERTAS

Very rare visitor from Atlantic islets, typically in late summer. BBRC: four previous records.

CAERNARFON: one off Bardsey on 20 Aug.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris borealis* ADERYN DRYCIN CORY

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 115 previous records.

CAERNARFON: one off Bardsey on 1 Aug.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Ardenna grisea* ADERYN DRYCIN DU

Uncommon autumn passage migrant, though numbers vary. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	17	5
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

With just 17 individuals, it was a very poor year – the annual average during 2010-19 was 90. All records, singles unless otherwise stated: PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 18 and 31 Aug. and two here on 1 Sept.; Skokholm on seven dates during 10-30 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 17 Aug., 19 Aug., 27 Sept. and 16 Oct.; Porth Ysgaden on 22 July and 26 Aug.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Ardenna gravis* ADERYN DRYCIN MAWR

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 288 previous records.

CAERNARFON: one off Bardsey on 19 Aug.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* ADERYN DRYCIN MANAW

Breeds on Pembrokeshire islands and Bardsey, which hold over half the global population. Large feeding movements and autumn passage off western coasts and even well up into the Bristol Channel. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	540	475
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	2%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: the number of responses within standard annual census plots was 1418 on Skomer (*cf*. 1435 in 2018) and 331 on Skokholm (*cf*. 373 in 2018); estimated productivity was 0.52 fledged chicks/breeding pair on Skomer (*cf*. 0.45 in 2018 but lower than the 2012-18 average of 0.60); on Skokholm it was 0.72 (*cf*. 0.70 in 2018); CAERNARFON: 94 young fledged from 122 monitored burrows on Bardsey (0.77, *cf*. 0.6 in 2018).

Monthly max. counts logged at Bardsey, CAERNARFON and at Skokholm, PEMBROKE:

	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*
Bardsey	17	7124	1059	1442	7066	11,786	2502	12	1
Skokholm	232	21,600	14,500	72,000	23,990	53,684	474	18	4

Other large counts: GWENT: 300 off Goldcliff on 16 June; E.GLAMORGAN: 2000 east at St Donat's Bay on 17 July and 1000 off St Donat's on 10 Aug.; GOWER: max. 458 in two hours passing down-channel at Port Eynon Pt on 19 July; CARMARTHEN: max. *c*.1500 off Pembrey harbour on 30 July; stranded juveniles found inland at Glangwili Hospital, Carmarthen, on 3 Sept., and Abergwili and Llandovery on 30 Sept. (last two were released back to the sea); CEREDIGION: 9000 off Borth/Ynyslas in July and 20,000 here on 3 Aug.; 1000 off Llanrhystud on 16 July; 1000 off Aberaeron on 10 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: several thousand off Trefeddian, Aberdyfi, on 22 June; 813 west off Tonfanau in 1.75 hours on 14 July; CAERNARFON: 352+ off Criccieth on 31 Aug.; *c*.1200 off Braich y Pwll on 17 Aug. and *c*.400 here on 19 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 1106 off The Range on 28 April, 1419 here on 27 May, 2279 on 28th, 1247 on 7 July, 6938 on 31st, 1734 on 11 Aug., 6363 on 12th and 2444 on 15th.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* ADERYN DRYCIN BALEARIG

Uncommon autumn migrant to western coasts. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	13	7
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A very poor year, with *c*.31 individuals (*cf*. 2010-19 annual average was 159). All records: PEMBROKE: 10 off Strumble Head between 18 Aug. and 4 Sept. (six in Aug. and four in Sept.), singles off Skokholm on 4, 22 and 30 Aug., three here on 10 Oct. and one on 14 Nov.; CEREDIGION: singles passed Aberystwyth on 9-10 Aug.; two passed Mwnt on 10 Aug.; CAERNARFON: four off Porth Ysgaden on 22 July; one passed Bardsey on 6 Aug., three here on 10 Aug. and one on 27 Sept.; ANGLESEY: one passed Pt Lynas on 5 Sept.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* CICONIA GWYN

Scarce visitor from Europe. Some records may be escaped individuals. WBRC: 66 previous records.

BRECON: one over Island Fields, Brecon, on 11 April.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* HUGAN

One breeding colony: Grassholm, Pembrokeshire, where numbers increased from c.7000 AON in 1948 to 36,000 AON in 2015. Elsewhere, occurs off all coasts throughout the year. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1027	1155
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: bred on Grassholm; no census this year, but 545 fledged from a sample of 895 AON (average 0.61/nest); ANGLESEY: up to 200 adults displayed and built nests on Ynys Badrig (Middle Mouse), but no breeding recorded at the site that is dominated by auks.

Notable and max. counts: GWENT: nine off Goldcliff Pt on 10 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 37 off Sker on 8 May; 120 at St Donat's on 10 Aug.; GOWER: *c*.50 at Port Eynon Pt on 7 July; CARMARTHEN: *c*.30 off Pwll on 27 April; *c*.30 off Pembrey harbour on 31 Aug. and 11 Sept.; PEMBROKE: *c*.2980 off Strumble Head on 31 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 270 off Ynyslas on 11 July; 200 off Aberystwyth on 20 July; 450 off Borth on 18 Sept.; 250 off Ynyslas on 20 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 40 off Tonfanau on 14 July; CAERNARFON: 85 off the Great

Gannets and Guillemots, Ynys Badrig (James Waggitt, Bangor University)

Orme on 6 April and 50+ here on 23 April; *c*.50 at Llanfairfechan on 26 June; 50 off Pen-y-clip on 7 June; 103 off Braich y Pwll on 18 Aug.; ANGLESEY: *c*.100 off RSPB South Stack on 27 June; 115 off The Range on 27 May and 131 here on 31 July; DENBIGH: eight at Colwyn Bay on 2 May; FLINT: 20 off Point of Ayr on 6 June and 41 here on 4 Sept.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Bardsey	8	119	83	133	66	378	1027	319

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* MULFRAN

Breeding resident in coastal counties from Gwent to Anglesey. Frequent offshore elsewhere. Regular inland. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON). Wales Amber listed.

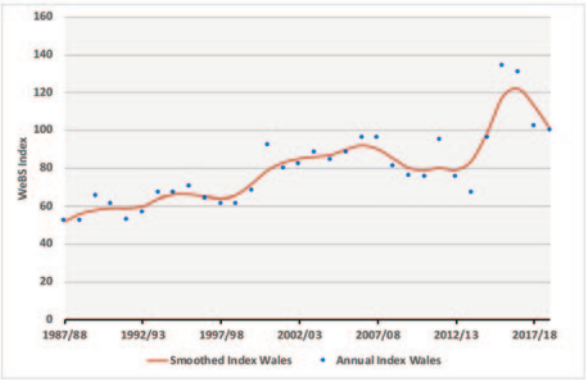
	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**4970**	**5512**
% of BirdTrack lists	**26%**	**23%**

Breeding: 1502 AON at sites with comparable counts, a remarkable 44% increase on 2018 (*cf*. 848), mainly a result

Maximum counts from the main estuarine and inland sites of 50+ at least once:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.				22		12	27		67	34	35	8
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	79	59	39	25	16	23	19	40	60	111	129	50
Roath Park Lake	40+	12	1	4	1	4	9	12	28	33	117	50
GOWER												
Whiteford		60	40	2			16	69	64	30	10	11
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	47	18	21	33	10	21	6	14	75	50	21	20
C. Sidan/Tywyn Pt	1	10	13		73					14	20	32
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	92	60	27						60	64	33	32
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	11	15	6		36		37	127	46	34		
Glaslyn/Dwyryd	1	2	31						123	33		6
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	15	37	37	29	2	3	8	11	55	47	41	34
Great Orme	35	9	c.25	3	8	*c*.50			28	*c*.50	2	6
Little Orme	70				14	*c*.350		50	451			
Rhos Pt	20+	10	10	5+	12+		6	12+	90	24		30
DENBIGH												
Kinmel Bay	43	11	14	1	2	25	8	8	35	50	29	146
FLINT												
Rhuddlan	6	23	6	43	136			177	81	87	48	200
Gronant	230	110	40	81	96	211	184	140	250	*c*.420	400	210
Point of Ayr	148	4	20	6	6			10	55	92	20	21
Rhyl	19	41	68	100	135	154	238	220	164	267	145	200
Connah's Quay NR	36	39	49	6		70	20	15	30	12	4	

Wetland Bird Survey: Cormorant in Wales, 1987 - 2019



of big increases around Liverpool Bay. The nest in Montgomeryshire is believed to be the first inland breeding in Wales in the modern era. PEMBROKE: 123 AON at St Margaret's Island (*cf*. 149 in 2018); eight AON on Middleholm *(cf*. 11 in 2018); two AON at Skomer (*cf*. 0 in 2018); MONTGOMERY: one pair fledged two young at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: present at Craig yr Aderyn but no nest counts; CAERNARFON: six AON at Carreg y Llam (*cf*. five in 2018); min. 20 AON (*cf*. 14 in 2018) and 25 juveniles on Ynys Gwylan Bach (1.25/nest); 147 AON on Great Orme (*cf*. 35 in 2018); 501 AON on Little Orme (*cf*. 158 in 2018); ANGLESEY: 695 AON at Puffin Island (*cf*.476 in 2018); 10 AON at RSPB South Stack; 11 AON at North Stack; bred at Llanlleiana.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has become more variable in recent years, but numbers have increased in the long-term, despite a recent dip.

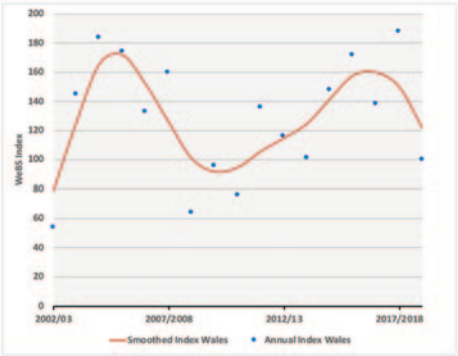
Other counts of 50+ not included in the table on page 116: GOWER: 73 at Penclawdd on 23 March and 140 here on 23 July; CEREDIGION: 84 at Ynyslas on 23 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 60 at Penrhyn Bay on 1 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 76 at Cemlyn on 24 Aug.; *c.*72 between Lligwy and Moelfre on 3 Aug.; 52 at Rhoscolyn on 8 July; DENBIGH: 72 between Abergele and Llanddulas on 15 Oct.; FLINT: *c*.50 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4 Jan.; 95 at St Asaph on 21 April and 59 here on 22 May.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* MULFRAN WERDD

Localised breeding species on rocky coasts from Gower to Anglesey. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1046	1122
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	5%

Wetland Bird Survey: Shag in Wales, 2002 - 2019



Breeding: 257 AON, half the number at these sites in 2018 (*cf*. 511), driven largely by the reduction in the count on Puffin Island. PEMBROKE: one AON on St Margaret's Island (*cf*. two in 2018); three AON on the Castlemartin peninsula (*cf*. four in 2018); three AON on Skomer (*cf*. six in 2018); 18 AON on Middleholm (*cf*. 16 in 2018). Productivity (2.3/nest) was similar to that in 2018 (2.4); CAERNARFON: seven AON at Carreg y Llam (*cf.* 8 in 2018); 45 AON on Bardsey (*cf.* 45 in 2018) and 73 fledged young (productivity 1.62/nest); 52 AON on Ynys Gwylan Fawr (*cf*. 66 in 2018) and 106 young (2.04/nest); ANGLESEY: six AON at RSPB South Stack Cliffs (*cf*. 8 in 2018); *c*.122 AON on Puffin Island (*cf*. 356 in 2018); bred at Porthygwichiaid, Llanlleiana and Rhoscolyn.

Non-breeding: the annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales varies, and many open coasts

favoured by Shags are not counted, but overall the long-term trend would suggest a stable population.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey		17	21	31	43	68	121	57	31	13		

Max. counts elsewhere: GWENT: one at Llandegfedd Res. on 16 April; E.GLAMORGAN: three at Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 14 Dec.; GOWER: six at Port Eynon on 13 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: three at Telpyn Pt on 4 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 15 at Skokholm on 11 Aug.; 15 at Druidston Chins on 4 Sept.; 13 at Skokholm on 7 and 29 Sept.; 12 at Nolton Haven on 2 Oct.; 12 on Skokholm on 4 Oct.; 24 in Fishguard harbour on 16 Nov.; CEREDIGION: max. of seven reported but no site named; MEIRIONNYDD: 20+ at Harlech beach on 17 April; CAERNARFON: 45+ off Morfa Dinlle on 24 Jan.; 37 at the Great Orme in Jan.; 30+ at Morfa Nefyn in Oct.; 36 off Pontllyfni on 22 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 56 at Ynys Moelfre on 10 July; 50+ at Penmon Pt on 20 Oct.; *c*.40 at Llanlleiana on 12 May; 40+ at Beaumaris on 20 Oct.; DENBIGH: *c*.20 at Kinmel Bay on 10 Feb.; 20 at Rhos-on-sea on 20 Feb.; FLINT: one off Point of Ayr on 9 Aug.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellis* IBIS DDU

Scarce and increasing visitor from Europe. WBRC: 139 previous records.

All records were single birds. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from 14 Jan. throughout the year and into 2020; also seen at Collister Pill on 17 July; E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig on 28-31 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 10-11 May; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 4 Jan. was the first county record; ANGLESEY: Valley on 7 Nov.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* LLWYBIG

Uncommon visitor to Wales, mainly to coastal wetlands, in autumn, but increasingly in spring and summer. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**185**	**430**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

A pair built a nest just over the border at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Wirral, in 2019, but it is believed that no chicks hatched. The 11 at Penclacwydd, CARMARTHEN, in September equals the size of the largest flock in Wales since 1893, at Uzmaston, Pembrokeshire, in 2005.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands				1		2	2		7			
GOWER												
Burry South*	1				1	4	4			4		1
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	1	3	6	6	3	4	4	5	11	11	7	7
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley							2		2			
RSPB Cors Ddyga					1	3	2	2	2			
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR				1	1				1			

* presumed to be the same as individuals at Penclacwydd, Carmarthenshire.

Elsewhere, singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN: Kidwelly Quay on 19-20 April; PEMBROKE: Carew on 12 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi Marshes on 17 April; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir/Glandyfi on 9-14 May and at RSPB Ynys-hir on 21 June, and also in MEIRIONNYDD at Ynys saltings; ANGLESEY: Inland Sea on 31 May; Alaw est. on 22 and 26 June; Inland Sea on 11 Oct.; FLINT: Rhuddlan on 5 June.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* ADERYN Y BWN

Uncommon but regular winter visitor and, since 2016, breeding species. RBBP: seven booming males and three nests in 2018. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	58	92
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The small breeding population on Anglesey, now in its fourth year, seems secure thanks to wetland management by the RSPB, while sightings in South Wales prefaced confirmed breeding in 2020. The presence of an apparently unpaired, perhaps second calendar-year bird, in Breconshire is very encouraging.

Breeding season: eight booming males. GWENT: two booming males at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth); BRECON: booming male at Llangorse Lake from 26 Feb. to 18 April, one seen here on 27 June and booming heard on 13 July; ANGLESEY: probably two nests at RSPB Cors Ddyga: two booming males from late March and three males and three females seen on 23 May; at RSPB Valley Wetlands, two booming males (and territories) and a third mobile booming male. One nest was confirmed and a dead juv. was found in late summer.

Non-breeding records away from nest sites, all single birds unless otherwise stated: in the first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 1 and 23 Jan., and 14 and 25 March and at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 23 Jan. and 8 March; Kenfig NNR from 2 Jan. to 1 Feb. and on 14 March; GOWER: Oxwich on 20 Jan.

Second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Hendre Lake on 6 Oct.; Kenfig NNR on seven dates between 24 Sept. and 13 Dec.; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 19 December.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus* ADERYN BWN LLEIAF

Very rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 35 previous records.

GOWER: one at Gowerton on 13 May.

NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* CREYR NOS

Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 47 previous records.

PEMBROKE: two adults and a subadult over Skokholm on 30 May.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* CREYR GWARTHEG

Uncommon, but increasing, visitor from Europe: 133 previous records. At least one pair nested just over the Flintshire border at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands in 2017.

A total of 16 new birds during the year (another five overwintered from 2018) is only half the total

recorded in 2018. This was the first year that the species was not monitored by the WBRC.

Singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: four at Zig Zag Lane, Porthcawl, from 31 December 2018 until 6 April; Kenfig on 20 March and 20 April; GOWER: adult at Castell-du on 14 May; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd from 27 March to 4 April and 4 August to 5 Oct.; freshly dead bird, being eaten by a Peregrine, at Pembrey Harbour on 13 Aug.; PEMBROKE: four at Trefasser on 17 May; Gann est. on 14-26 Oct.; Nevern est. on 4-7 Dec.; CEREDIGION: on the north side of the Teifi est., opposite St. Dogmaels, from November 2018 until 31 March; MONTGOMERY: Llyn-coed y Dinas on 27 April; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 1 and 8 Feb.; Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn on 2 May; Alaw est. on 19 Sept.

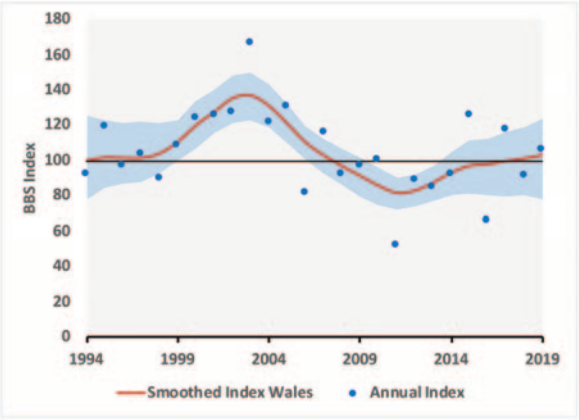
GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* CREYR GLAS

Fairly common resident species. The BTO Heronries Census showed declines of 38% since 1935 and 28% during 2007-17. Count unit is Apparently Occupied Nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	4187	4840
% of BirdTrack lists	21%	20%

Grey Herons recorded by the Breeding Bird Survey have returned to their 1994 level after recovering from a low point in 2011, while the Wetland Bird Survey index has been fairly level since the start of this century (graph not shown).

Breeding Bird Survey: Grey Heron in Wales, 1994 - 2019



The BTO Heronries Census estimated 797 (694-951) AON in 2019, of which 321 AON at 43 heronries were included in county bird reports (*cf*. 325 nests in 45 heronries in 2018, which included Gwent): E.GLAMORGAN: 33 AON in eight heronries, the largest being nine at Coryton Wood, Cardiff; GOWER: 16 AON at six sites, the largest colony was of five at Bryncoch; CARMARTHEN: seven AON at Pentre-Davis; PEMBROKE: *c*.40 AON at six sites, the

Monthly counts from selected sites holding 10+ birds at least once:

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	12	3	3	1
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	19	17	15						31	16	14	11
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	8	15	15	13	1	3	4	7	15	12	9	10
Foryd	11	4	1	1	2	3	1	4	4	5	6	5
ANGLESEY												
Church Island	17	24										
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	28	33	14						11	10	6	4
RSPB Cors Ddyga	4	6	4	7	10	2	4	7	6	10	9	4
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	0	6		2	10	9	15	5	7	10	15	13

largest being 12 at Upton Castle; BRECON: 65 AON at five sites, the largest being 27 at Ashford (Llandetty); MONTGOMERY: 31 AON above The Flash, Welshpool; MEIRIONNYDD: 34 AON at four sites, the largest being 23 at Llanelltyd; CAERNARFON: 51 AON at five sites, including colonies of 15 at Glynllifon and Coed Benarth; ANGLESEY: 28 AON at six sites, including colonies of six at Ynys Welltog, Bodorgan and Paradwys; DENBIGH: 16 AON at Mynydd-y-briw.

Records of 10+ away from breeding colonies: E.GLAMORGAN: 11 at Forest Farm on 17 Jan.; GOWER: 10 at Old Park Farm, Margam, on 14 March; CARMARTHEN: 21 at Pwll on 19 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 14 at Westfield Pill on 20 March; 13 on the Gann est. in Sept.; BRECON: 12 at Ffordd Fawr on 17 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 18 on the Inland Sea on 16 Feb.; FLINT: 18 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 25 Feb.; 11 at Connah's Quay NR on 14 Nov.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* CREYR PORFFOR

Scarce visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 68 previous records.

CEREDIGION: one at Ynyslas on 2-6 May; ANGLESEY: two at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 14-20 May.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba* CREYR MAWR GWYN

Uncommon but increasingly regular visitor at any time of the year. RBBP: no breeding attempts yet in Wales but a pair probably bred in a reedbed on the Wirral side of the Dee estuary in 2017.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**498**	**833**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**2%**

It is no longer feasible to calculate accurately the number of individuals in Wales, and even in some counties, since birds will readily commute between wetlands some

All records	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	27 individuals during the year											
E.GLAMORGAN	2+	2+	1	2	1	1	1			2	1	
GOWER East		1		1+	1+	1+						
Burry Inlet	5	7		5			9		5	7		5
Loughor estuary								4				
CARMARTHEN	3	4	2	2	1		1		1	5	2	1
PEMBROKE					1		1		1	1		
CEREDIGION										6		
Cors Caron area	1	1		1	1					1		
CEREDIGION/MONTGOMERY/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi estuary	1	1	1	1	1	1	2		4		1	1
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	5	5	5	2	1			1	1	1	3	3
elsewhere	1			1					1	2		2
RADNOR	four during the year											
MONTGOMERY	1	1		2	1	1				1	1	2
MEIRIONNYDD		1		1	3	2		1			1	
CAERNARFON			1	1	1	2			1	3		2
ANGLESEY elsewhere			1	2	1		1	1			4	2
RSPB Cors Ddyga			1		4	1	2	5	2		1	
DENBIGH				1			1	1	1			
FLINT (min.)	5	2	3	2	1	5	9	11	6	2	5	

distance apart. In 2018, we estimated there were 138 individuals, compared to 95 in 2017 and 50 in 2016. The flock size record was broken, yet again, with 11 on the Dee estuary, Flintshire.

Largest groups: GWENT: max. count of eight; CEREDIGION: five at Llanrhystud on 30 Oct. and up to four on the Dyfi est. in Sept.; CAERNARFON: three off Bardsey on 30 Oct. FLINT: up to 11 on the Dee estuary in Aug.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* CREYR BACH

Rare but increasing breeder - RBBP: 100 nests at 12 sites in 2018. Fairly common autumn migrant. Wales Green listed.

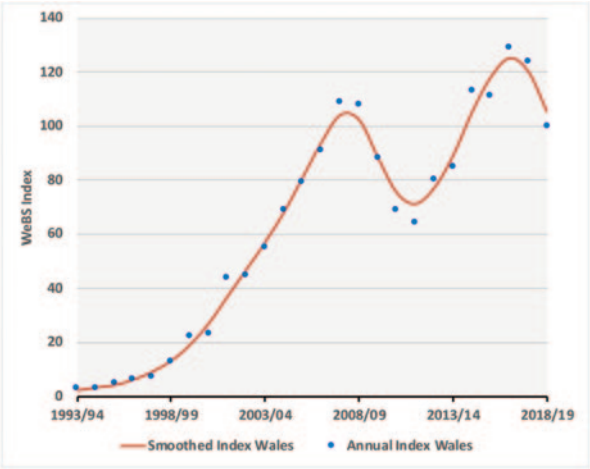
	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**2994**	**3911**
% of BirdTrack lists	**14%**	**16%**

Breeding: 14 colonies, most within existing heronries, held a minimum 125-127 nests, an increase on 2017 but still below the 2016 peak. GWENT: 11 AON; GOWER: 5-6 AON at one site; CARMARTHEN: at least one pair bred at one site and one pair at a new site; BRECON: 2-3 in breeding plumage along the R. Wye at Tregaer Bridge, Ffordd Fawr and Hay-on-Wye; possibly bred in the Llangorse area and by the Usk at Pencelli; RADNORSHIRE: 2-3 AON at one site; MEIRIONNYDD: two AON at Trefi, Aberdyfi; CAERNARFON: 31 AON at Abercegin, 30 at Glynllifon and 10 at Coed Benarth, giving a new county record total of 71 AON; ANGLESEY: seven AON at Bodorgan (37 birds, including juveniles, were counted on 27 June); five AON at

A summary of counts at the main sites (30+ at least once):

>30 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Magor Marsh	1	2	2	44	17+	*c.*20	17			20	13	
GOWER												
Llanrhidian/Staffal Haegr	52	43	53	52		7		30	17	63	74	47
Upper Loughor est.		18	17					10	39	23		
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	10	7	16	7	3	6	20	37	41	18	10	7
Gwendraeth est.	3	11	7	17	4		19	25	45	47		2
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	34	15	32						54	62	29	24
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	3	1	11						21	22	32	14
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	28	21	26	22	7	11	28	100	106	63	44	13
Foryd	12	7	11	5	13	20	15	29	33	19	11	10
Porthmadog				1		19	8	2	13	38	1	
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	20	13	42						62	51	37	11
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	6	1	23	28	16	28	33	24	24	9	3	
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	4	5	7	5	7	12	19	27	30	24	9	6
Talacre	1	2	6	2	37	15		16	17	7	2	1
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	1	2		7	4	42	27	101	21	6	4	2
Connah's Quay NR	2	4	10	8	4	23	40	65	25	20	3	1

Wetland Bird Survey: Little Egret in Wales, 1993 - 2019



Llyn Traffwll; four AON at Plas Penrhyn; four AON at Paradwys, Bodorgan; FLINT: 13 AON at Talacre.

Non-breeding: the lowest Wetland Bird Survey index for five years, but nonetheless the seventh highest ever.

Count of 30+ birds not included in the table on page 122: ANGLESEY: 31 roosted at Newborough Forest on 7 March.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* GWALCH PYSGOD

Rare breeder since 2004 - RBBP: six nests in 2018. Elsewhere, an uncommon passage migrant.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	150	220
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Five nests. MONTGOMERY: pairs at Cors Dyfi and Llyn Clywedog each fledged three chicks, although one from the second site disappeared soon after fledging; MEIRIONNYDD: two nests, including one at Pont Croesor, each fledged two young; DENBIGH: pair at Llyn Brenig fledged one young.

Apart from the above, approximate monthly totals for each county where provided:

Monthly totals	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
E.GLAMORGAN		5			1			
GOWER		1				1+	2+	1+
CARMARTHEN				1	1		1	
PEMBROKE		3			1	1	1	
CEREDIGION		3	1					
BRECON	1	2+	1	2		2		
MONTGOMERY	1		1	2	1	1		
CAERNARFON		2	1					
ANGLESEY		1	5	4	1			
DENBIGH	1	2	2					

BRECON: on 19 April, the Dŵr Cymru rangers at Llwyn-Onn were informed by an angler of an injured Osprey at Cantref Res. The bird was found to have damaged primary feathers on the left wing, rendering it near flightless. Through collaboration of the rangers, South Wales Swan Rescue, Vets Now (Swindon) and the International Centre for Birds of Prey (Newent), the bird was restored to health and released at Cantref Res. on 25 April. It had been ringed as one of two chicks in a nest on the Black Isle near Inverness on 2 July 2014.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* BODA MEL

Rare breeder since 1992. Population estimated at 14-20 pairs but under-reported - RBBP: two pairs in 2018. Rare on passage elsewhere. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	13	4
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: GOWER: one pair probably bred, with display and courtship observed.

Single birds elsewhere: CEREDIGION: Cwm Einon on 7 September; MEIRIONNYDD: Ynysfor on 3 July.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* GWALCH GLAS

Fairly common resident (2950 breeding pairs).

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1411	1596
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* GWALCH MARTH

(Re)introduced (Category C) breeding resident, probably in all Welsh counties (310 pairs). RBBP: 51-139 pairs in 2018.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	185	204
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding season: 9-64 pairs: E.GLAMORGAN: reported from 29 locations, with breeding proven at two sites; GOWER: six sites in Neath-Port Talbot and three on Gower; CARMARTHEN: no confirmed breeding records; PEMBROKE: reported from 13 locations; CEREDIGION: no confirmed breeding records; BRECON: 23 locations occupied, with fledged juveniles at seven sites; MEIRIONNYDD: one pair in Clocaenog Forest and three other records elsewhere; CAERNARFON: five locations, with possible breeding at one; ANGLESEY: three records in April; DENBIGH: at least six breeding pairs, with others seen at five sites.

Records outside breeding season away from nesting habitat: CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 8 Sept.; FLINT: Mostyn on 25 Feb.; Rhyl on 21 Sept.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* BODA'R GWERNI

Rare breeder - RBBP: four nests in two counties in 2018. Small numbers winter.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	368	646
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding: six nests (min. eight young fledged), not including Gwent, is a record for the modern era, and included the first breeding record in Gower.

GOWER: pair fledged three young; ANGLESEY: three nests at RSPB Cors Ddyga, of which two failed and the third fledged three young – although up to three males were present, it is believed a single male was involved in all three pairings; a pair nested at RSPB Valley Wetlands (first attempt here) but no young were seen.

Summary of other records for each county (M = male, CC = cream crowned female / immature):

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT Newport Wetlands	2	2	2	4	3	1	2	1	1	2	3	2
elsewhere				1					1			
E. GLAMORGAN	1					1			1	1	1	
GOWER		from mid-February onwards throughout the year										
East										M	M	M
CARMARTHEN	2	3	1					1	1	1	1	
PEMBROKE												
Castlemartin Corse	present all year, with two in October											
Marloes	1							1	1	1		
Dowrog	2			1				2		1		
Skomer/Skokholm								1	1	1		
elsewhere	1				3+	2				1		
CEREDIGION/MONTGOMERY/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi estuary	1			1	2		1	1				
CEREDIGION					1			1				
BRECON									CC			
MONTGOMERY					CC							
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn est.						1				CC		
CAERNARFON	CC				1	2				1		
Bardsey				CC		CC			CC			
DENBIGH	1			1	1	1		1	1	1		
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR	1		5			1	1	3	3	2	5	1

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* BODA TINWEN

Rare breeder in the uplands of north and mid-Wales. RBBP: 26-41 pairs in 2018. Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**431**	**485**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**1%**

Breeding: 22 territories. RADNOR: one nest in the Elan Valley; MONTGOMERY: pair fledged five young in the Berwyns SPA; one other territory; MEIRIONNYDD: 13 territories monitored, although one male was unpaired. From 12 nests, 36+ eggs were laid, and 25 young fledged from eight nests; CAERNARFON: three territories in the Carneddau, one in the Snowdon range and two in the Migneint but no information on breeding success; DENBIGH: one territory.

Predation: DENBIGH: ringtail taken by Goshawk at Ruabon Mountain on 5 Nov.

Widely recorded outside the breeding season and range. Summary of other records for each county, separated by sex where reported (M = male, J = juv., RT = ringtail, i.e. female or 1CY):

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT Newport Wetlands			1					1			1	1
E. GLAMORGAN	M	2	2+	3			M	RT	1	2	4	2
GOWER East		M										
Llanrhidian/Staffal Haegr	M RT	M RT									RT	RT
CARMARTHEN	3	3	1							1	1	
PEMBROKE												
Dowrog/St Davids	M 3RT	2	2	1						1	2	2
Plumstone Mountain	3M 4RT	2										2M 2RT
Puncheston		M RT										
Dale/Marloes*	1		1	1							M RT	1
Skomer				RT	RT					1		
Skokholm			1	1						2	2	2
Castlemartin Corse	1	1		1						1		
elsewhere	3	1	2	3						2	1	1
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD/MONTGOMERY												
Dyfi estuary	M, IMM M, 4RT								M + 2RT			
CEREDIGION	M	2		1	1		1	1	1			
Cors Caron	2RT								2			
BRECON	2M 2RT	M	M 2RT	2M	RT		RT	RT	2M 3RT	2RT		M
MEIRIONNYDD			1	2	4	1		1				
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn estuary		1	1	1	2			3	1			
CAERNARFON			2	1					1			
ANGLESEY	1	2		1	1	2	2		1		2	1
Cefni estuary	2RT	RT									1	
RSPB Cors Ddyga	RT							2	2	2		
Cors Erddreiniog		1										
Llyn Coron		1	1									2
Aberffraw		RT	RT								1	2
DENBIGH		2	3	2	3	1		1			1	2
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR	2	1	1						1	1	1	1

*those at Marloes were probably the same as those on Skomer and Skokholm.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* BODA MONTAGU

Rare summer visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 125 previous records.

ANGLESEY: 2CY male on the Alaw est. on 1 June.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* BARCUD COCH

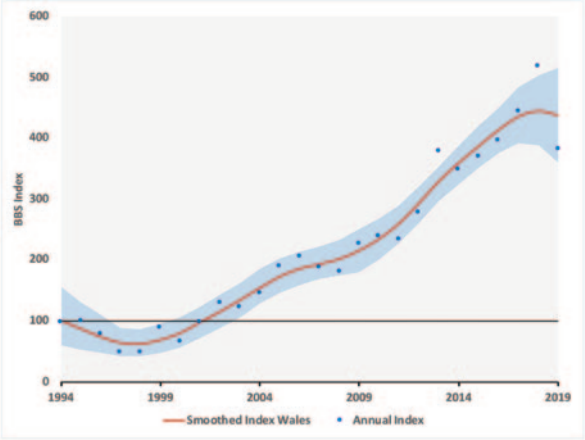
Recovered population following near extinction early in the 20th century (1,350 breeding pairs), although remains scarce within 30km of coast. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1767	1865
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	6%

The fall in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales between 2018 and 2019 is surely a blip, as there remains plenty of room for Red Kites to continue their spread. The index increased 413% between 1995 and 2018, the biggest increase of any species. The range continues to extend towards the north and south coasts, with two confirmed nesting attempts in East Glamorgan, including one in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Large counts included: CARMARTHEN: 20 at Kidwelly Quay on 7 Nov.; 83 at Meidrim on 29 Dec.; CEREDIGION: up to 250 reported at feeding stations; BRECON: 52 at Sennybridge winter roost on 5 Jan. and 37+ here on 26 Dec.; 19 over Talgarth on 8 June; RADNOR: 70 at Llanbister on 7 Nov.

Breeding Bird Survey: Red Kite in Wales, 1994 - 2019



BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* BARCUD DU

Rare visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 22 previous records.

Singles: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 23 April; CAERNARFON: Dinas Dinlle on 7 April, presumed same as ANGLESEY: Holyhead Mountain and Carmel Head on 6-7 April.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* BWNCATH

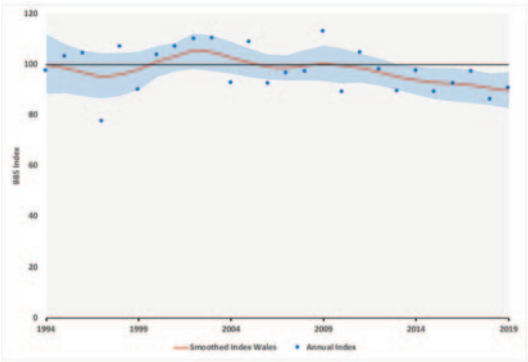
Fairly common and widespread breeding resident (9850-13,500 pairs).

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	5948	6611
% of BirdTrack lists	29%	27%

While the the Breeding Bird Survey index for the UK has increased dramatically in the last 23 years, the index for Wales has fallen by 8% (and by 15% since the peak in 2002), with presumably most suitable territories now occupied. The BirdTrack reporting rate has also fallen, from 30% of complete lists in 2017.

Large counts: BRECON: 24 ‘worming’ at Groesffordd/Llanhamlach on 16 Nov.

Breeding Bird Survey: Buzzard in Wales, 1994 - 2019



BARN OWL *Tyto alba* TYLLUAN WEN

Uncommon breeding resident in all counties (633-728 pairs). Population probably stable in the long term, but numbers vary considerably. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	129	132
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Min. 64 breeding pairs, with good productivity in the Montgomeryshire study area. E.GLAMORGAN: bred at one site and possibly at a further two; GOWER: bred at Abernant Farm, Crynant, and at eight sites in Neath-Port Talbot, where 19 chicks were ringed, and reported from a further 16 locations; CARMARTHEN: bred at two sites; PEMBROKE: reported from 12 locations; BRECON: at least four breeding pairs and one present at another site during the spring; MONTGOMERY: 94 chicks fledged from 31 nests; MEIRIONNYDD: at least five pairs bred, fledging 14 young, breeding suspected at one other site; CAERNARFON: one caught on Bardsey had been ringed on the island in 2015; ANGLESEY: bred at two sites and present at two others during the breeding season; DENBIGH: seven sites during the breeding season; FLINT: three pairs bred, and seen at four other sites.

Barn Owl (Cameron Sharp)

SNOWY OWL *Bubo scandiacus* TYLLUAN YR EIRA

Very rare visitor from the Arctic. BBRC: 10 previous records.

2018. GWENT: one at Twmbarlwm on 22 March is treated as a new record because it could not conclusively be linked to the female recorded in Pembrokeshire, Anglesey and Meirionnydd during March-Oct. 2018.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* TYLLUAN FRECH

Fairly common and widespread, but declining, breeding resident in all counties (2550-3800 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	568	588
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding season records: GWENT: bred at seven sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at five sites; birds reported from many others; GOWER: bred at 15 sites; reported from a further 29; BRECON: present at 13+ locations; MONTGOMERY: present at 14 sites; DENBIGH: bred at 12 locations; FLINT: suspected to have bred at four locations.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* TYLLUAN FACH

Introduced (Category C), localised and declining breeding resident (250-300 pairs).

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	110	168
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Several counties reported an increased number of records; the reports below include eight confirmed pairs and 12 possible pairs. GWENT: 14 individuals, including a pair that bred at Great Newra and two other pairs that probably bred; E.GLAMORGAN: no breeding records, but individuals on Gelligaer Common in summer and on derelict buildings at Sker Farm and Ogmore-by-Sea, at Gileston, Pant-yr-Awel and Southerndown; PEMBROKE: one at Marloes Mere on 19 Jan.; three on Ramsey on 29 May and two here on 2 Oct.; no nesting on Skomer; two at Porthgain on 7 June; CEREDIGION: pair in the north of the county; one at Bow St on 30 Oct.; BRECON: one at Scethrog on 22 July; RADNOR: present at three sites; MONTGOMERY: bred at six sites, reported from a further 14; CAERNARFON: one at Uwchmynydd on 13 May; four males held territory on Bardsey in April but only two by the start of June and only one juv. known to have fledged; DENBIGH: two breeding sites; individuals at four other locations; FLINT: reported from three locations in April-June and RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 21 Sept.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* TYLLUAN GORNIOG

Uncommon resident, perhaps c.100 breeding pairs, mainly in conifer woodland - RBBP: 11-17 pairs in 2018. Uncommon visitor and passage migrant in a broader suite of habitats. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	9	6
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: nine breeding season records (but none received from inland Gwent where four territories were found in 2017). Tape playback in a conifer plantation adjacent to moorland on a calm night in late Feb./March could reveal more, although a co-ordinated two-visit survey of forestry in Denbighshire, Caernarfonshire and Anglesey in 2019 did not elicit any responses.

All records were singles: E.GLAMORGAN: called from a conifer plantation near Cefn Cadlan on 24 March; GOWER: Cwm Maelog Forestry on 12 July; BRECON: juv. called at Llanwrthwl in July and an adult here in Sept.; Llysdinam in March; Garthbrengy in Nov.; RADNOR: present at four sites; MONTGOMERY: Llanerfyl on 26 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Cors Bodgynydd on 16 May; DENBIGH: Coed Llanedgla on 21 April.

2018. BRECON: bred close to Banc-y-Celyn Common, above Alltmawr (also in 2017).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

Uncommon breeding resident - RBBP: 13-22 pairs in 2018. Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers to all counties. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	185	267
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: now a very scarce bird, with five pairs on Skomer and only 5-8 pairs on the mainland. PEMBROKE: five pairs bred on Skomer (*cf*. six in 2018), some of which were also seen on Skokholm; BRECON: two at Cefn Esgair-carnau and one at Pantyllyn Hill in May; RADNOR: 4-7 breeding pairs; MEIRIONNYDD: one territory.

Non-breeding. From late November there was an influx in Anglesey, particularly evident at Tywyn Aberffraw and Llyn Coron, where birds were recorded from 25 Nov. to the end of the year. Good numbers were also recorded at Capel Gwyn, where eight were seen on 27 Nov. and smaller numbers to 11 Dec. Elsewhere, three at Tywyn Trewan on 30 Nov., three at Plas Bog and four at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 16 Dec.

Approximate monthly totals (excluding breeding records above):

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	6		2			1		6				
E.GLAMORGAN	3	5	8	4	1					1	5	2
GOWER	2	1	2	2							1	
CARMARTHEN	2	8*	2	1								
PEMBROKE		1	4	2	2					1	2	1
CEREDIGION		2		2	2						1	2
BRECON	1	2	2	1						1		1
MONTGOMERY											1	
MEIRIONNYDD		1		1	2							
CAERNARFON	1	2		1	1							
Bardsey			1	1					1	1		
ANGLESEY		1	2	1	4		2		1	1	11	5+
Tywyn Aberffraw	1	2									1+	12
RSPB Cors Ddyga					1							4
DENBIGH		2	1					1				2
FLINT	2		3								1	

* including six at Ginst Pt on 10 Feb.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* COPOG

Uncommon but regular passage migrant to Wales.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	9	7
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

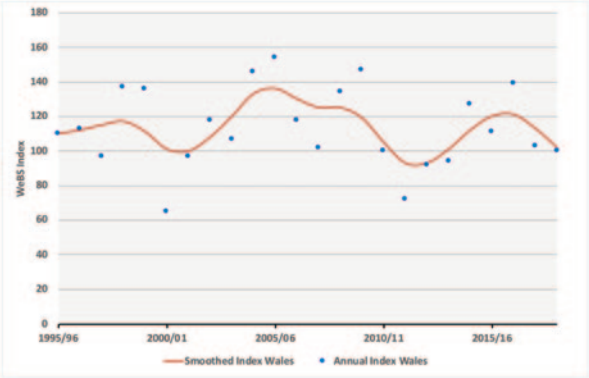
Only six records is among the lowest total in the last 30 years. All single birds: GWENT: Llantilio Crossenny on 4 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: Cwmbach, Aberdare, on 15 May; PEMBROKE: Walwyn's Castle on 1 March; Broad Haven on 5-6 March; West Lambston on 19 April; ANGLESEY: Mynydd Eilian on 26 June.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* GLAS Y DORLAN

Resident in lowland areas (445-970 breeding pairs). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	767	901
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Wetland Bird Survey: Kingfisher in Wales, 1995 - 2019



Breeding: bird reports featured only 18 confirmed nests (all in southern Wales) and 45 probable/possible nests. GWENT: bred at five sites on the R. Usk, and juveniles ringed on R. Trothy and R. Honddu in Sept.; E. GLAMORGAN: bred at 4-5 sites; GOWER: bred at two sites, probably at a further two, with records from 26 other locations; PEMBROKE: bred at two sites; BRECON: bred at three sites and possibly at three others; MEIRIONNYDD: reported from 11 locations during the breeding season; DENBIGH: possibly bred at two sites.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey, which indicates a slight decline, may not be very representative of the Welsh population but it is the only trend information available.

Kingfishers (Anthony Mathews)

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* PENGAM

Uncommon but regular passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	41	27
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

11 birds is well below the average of 17 during 2000-19, but a small influx was evident in the last week of August. All records were single birds unless stated: GWENT: Peterstone Wentlooge on 26 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore-by-Sea from 25 Aug. to 1 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Pencarnan Camp, St Davids on 24-26 Aug.; Skokholm on 25-28 Aug. and another on 16 Sept.; RADNOR: Rhayader on 30 Aug.; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, one on 26 Aug., two on 20 Sept., one on 29 Sept. and one on 14 Oct.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dryobates minor* CNOCELL FRAITH FACH

Rare breeding resident (105-320 pairs), principally distributed in the lowlands and along the main river valleys. RBBP: 28 pairs in 2018. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	22	24
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

There were no records in Gwent or East Glamorgan, in the latter county for the first time since the county bird report was published in 1962. All records are shown and were single birds unless otherwise stated:

Records from 14 sites during the breeding season (March to July), *cf*. 20 sites in 2018: GOWER: Gelli Hir Woods on 19 March; Craig Cefn Parc on 1 June; PEMBROKE: one drumming at Tŷ Canol on 6 May; CEREDIGION: two pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir; Cwm Clettwr NR on 23 April; Cilcennin on 21 June; BRECON: two males and a female near Hay-on-Wye in March; one drumming at Llangorse Sailing Club on 18-20 March; nest hole in woodland near Capel-y-ffin in April; male in Long Wood, Llanigon, on 23 April; MEIRIONNYDD: two at Farchynys, Mawddach, on 31 March; singles at Tan y Bwlch on 9 May, Pennal on 14 June and Ynysfor on 21 March and four dates in April (and 2 Aug.)

Records from 14 other sites outside the breeding season (Jan.-Feb. and Aug.-Dec.): CARMARTHEN: Stradey Woods on 3 Jan.; Cynghordy in Jan.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 15 Feb.; Glandyfi Castle on 24 Feb.; BRECON: Garth Lake on 28 Jan.; Blaen Llynfi on 15 Feb.; RADNOR: four sites (undated); MONTGOMERY: one at Powis Castle Park, Welshpool, on 1 Jan.; DENBIGH: singles at Erddig on 23 Feb., Moel Findeg on 13 July and Penycae on 29 Sept.

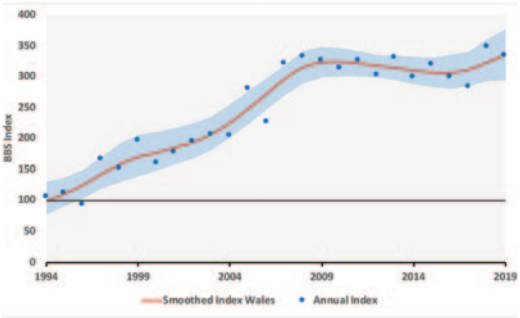
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* CNOCELL FRAITH FAWR

Fairly common breeding resident (21,500 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	3223	3840
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	17%

This species' success in Wales seems unlimited, with the Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index reaching a new high in 2019, having increased by 235% since 1994.

Breeding Bird Survey: Great Spotted Woodpecker in Wales, 1994 - 2019



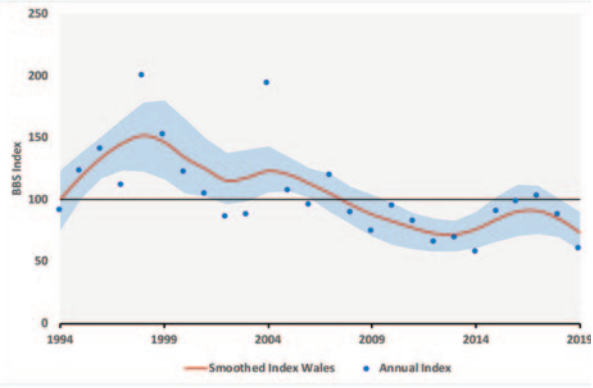
GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* CNOCELL WERDD

Uncommon breeding resident (3,350 pairs). Formerly more widespread, but declining in western counties, Montgomery and Radnor. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	894	1173
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	5%

Although not quite at its lowest level, the Breeding Bird Survey index is 27% lower than in 1994, and the slow decline – quite possibly a further contraction in range away from the west – continues.

Breeding Bird Survey: Green Woodpecker in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Records in county bird reports are predominantly from south and east Wales, with very few farther north and west. There were no records in Pembrokeshire (having bred in 2018), and although there were breeding season records in North Wales, there was only one probable breeding record.

E. GLAMORGAN: bred at five sites and probably bred at a further 13 sites; GOWER: bred at six sites, probably bred at a further seven sites and reported from a further 50 locations; CARMARTHEN: records at 16 locations; CEREDIGION: recorded at five sites; MONTGOMERY: recorded at six sites; BRECON: recorded at 53 locations; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded at 13+ locations; CAERNARFON: seven locations on Llŷn and six elsewhere in the county, including probable breeding near Penrhyn Bay; ANGLESEY: one at Newborough Warren on 25 Feb.; DENBIGH: reported from 37 sites; FLINT: recorded at 14 locations.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* CUDYLL COCH

Uncommon and declining resident (1750 breeding pairs). Partial and passage migrant to some counties in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1760	1717
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

Incomplete breeding information includes: E. GLAMORGAN: bred at two sites and territorial behaviour noted at three others; GOWER: bred at two sites and probably bred at one other; CARMARTHEN: only one pair thought to have bred in the county, in the Pembrey area; PEMBROKE: reported from 115 locations, with 14 possible territories; CEREDIGION: bred near Pumlumon and Cwm Ystwyth; MONTGOMERY: pair fledged five chicks near Clatter, the only breeding record; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at three sites and possibly at a further six; CAERNARFON: 18 sites during the breeding season; ANGLESEY: bred at two sites and present at three other sites; DENBIGH: breeding activity noted at 3+ sites; FLINT: breeding activity at two sites.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* CUDYLL BACH

Rare breeding resident in the uplands - RBBP: 7-25 pairs in 2018. Elsewhere, an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	331	244
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding season records: 7-11 pairs. E.GLAMORGAN: two adults and a recently fledged juv. at a hilltop site in the very north of the recording area (nest may have been in

Breconshire); agitated behaviour in the Cynon Valley in May, near a former breeding location; BRECON: bred at two sites; MONTGOMERY: pair fledged three young in Berwyn SPA; MEIRIONNYDD: three pairs laid nine eggs, from which six chicks fledged from two nests; possibly bred at two other sites in Berwyn; CAERNARFON: pair possibly bred in the Carneddau.

A summary of non-breeding records:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1		1	2				2		3	3	1
E. GLAMORGAN	12 locations			3	1				3	7	2	2
GOWER	1+	2+	1+	1	2			1	2+	3+	1+	3+
CARMARTHEN	15 records									13 records		
PEMBROKE	6	9	5	7	3				2	13	5	2
CEREDIGION	7	7	2	3			1			4	3	2
BRECON	2	1	1							4		1
MONTGOMERY		1				1				1		1
MEIRIONNYDD		1	1						1		2	1
CAERNARFON			1							3	1	
Bardsey			2	1+	1+				3	2+		
ANGLESEY	8	1	4	5	1			1	1	3	6	3
DENBIGH	2			1	1	1		1		1		1
FLINT	2		2			1	1	1	2	4	3	4

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

Rare but increasing breeder (205 pairs) - RBBP: 24-58 pairs in 2018. Uncommon passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**109**	**101**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding evidence: 22-43 pairs (*cf*. 14-30 in 2018). GWENT: five pairs bred, another five possible but no data received from several sites occupied in recent years; E.GLAMORGAN: pair fledged three young in the Vale of Glamorgan; another pair hawked insects at Flemingston on 18 May but are not thought to have bred; two chased

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
E. GLAMORGAN	15 April	Broadlands, Bridgend		**20 Oct.**	**Kenfig NNR**
GOWER	13 April	Cwm Ivy		**20 Oct.**	**Llanrhidian Marsh**
CARMARTHEN	6 May	Tywi Valley		23 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	23 April	Deer Park & Skokholm		4 Oct.	Pointz Castle, Haverfordwest
CEREDIGION	3 May	Ynyslas		11 Sept.	Furnace
BRECON	**5 April**	**Llanhamlach**		5 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	28 April	Dolydd Hafren		24 Aug.	Guilsfield
MEIRIONNYDD	16 May	Pennal		13 July	Lower Tryweryn
CAERNARFON	15 May	Nant Ffrancon		10 Sept.	Glanwydden
ANGLESEY	7 May	RSPB Cors Ddyga		7 Oct.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	14 May	Bodelwyddan		15 Sept.	Hanmer Mere
FLINT	15 April	Penycloddiau		12 Sept.	Connah's Quay NR

a male Hen Harrier at Nant Gwinau Forest on 13 July; CARMARTHEN: records from four distinct areas of the Tywi Valley, with breeding proven at two (family party of five at one site on 23 Aug.; two juveniles at another on 14 Sept.); reported from three other upland parishes in June and July; CEREDIGION: two pairs each reared one young, the first proven breeding in the county; BRECON: pair fledged three young near Llangorse Lake; two pairs each fledged two young in the Usk Valley; probably bred at another 11 sites; RADNOR: 8-13 pairs bred; MONTGOMERY: pair nested south of Newtown.

Approximate monthly totals of non-breeding birds, where data provided:

Monthly totals	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
E. GLAMORGAN	1	5	3	2	4	1	3
GOWER	1						2
CARMARTHEN							1
PEMBROKE	1	3	1		1	3	1
MEIRIONNYDD		2	1	1			
CAERNARFON		1	2		2	1	
ANGLESEY		1	2	2	1		1
DENBIGH		2	2	2	3	2	
FLINT	1	6	4		1	1	

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* HEBOG TRAMOR

Rare but declining breeder (279 territories in 2014) - RBBP: 99-152 pairs in 2018. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**1119**	**1265**
% of BirdTrack lists	**5%**	**4%**

Breeding: min. 111 territories occupied, not including Gwent. Of those monitored, average productivity was 1.55 young/nesting pair (*cf*. 1.65 in 2018).

Information from South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group and bird reports (not complete surveys except Pembrokeshire): E.GLAMORGAN: 42 territories, of which 34 were occupied and successful breeding occurred at 17 sites, with min. 36 young fledged; probable or possible breeding at nine sites but no outcome was reported; GOWER: nine territories, six of which were occupied, breeding was confirmed at four sites, from which 8+ young fledged; CARMARTHEN: eight territories, of which five were occupied, breeding occurred at three sites with probable breeding at two more; five chicks known to have fledged; PEMBROKE: at least 35 territories occupied, with min. 27 pairs attempting to breed, fledging at least 31 young; BRECON: of 19 territories visited, 13 were occupied and at least eight pairs fledged 19 young; MONTGOMERY: bred at several traditional sites; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at two sites, probably at a further four and possibly at three more; CAERNARFON: present at five traditional sites on the mainland and one pair fledged two young on Bardsey; ANGLESEY: young fledged at RSPB South Stack; FLINT: bred at two sites.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* CIGYDD CEFNGOCH

Scarce passage migrant from mainland Europe. Former breeder, last in 2006. WBRC: 152 records since 1967.

Six in a year made 2019 the best of the last decade, but nonetheless the period 2010-19 saw the fewest records ince the 1980s. E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Porthcawl on 15-29 Nov.; PEMBROKE: adult at Broadhaven on 14 June; 1CY on Skokholm on 6-7 Sept.; 1CY at Lydstep on 13 Oct.; CAERNARFON: adult on the Great Orme on 17 June; one at Pen y chain, Llŷn, on 2 Aug.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* CIGYDD MAWR

Uncommon but annual winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	37	90
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All single birds unless otherwise stated, first winter period: GWENT: Twmbarlwm on 6 April; E.GLAMORGAN: Garwnant from Dec. 2018 to 23 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: Crychan Forest on 15 Jan.; PEMBROKE: Plumstone Mountain from 22 Feb. to 8 April; Puncheston 22 Jan. and 6-7 Apr.; CEREDIGION: Cors Caron from 23 Feb. to 6 April; BRECON: Bwlch area on 10-28 Jan., and perhaps the same bird in Cwm Onneu, Llangattock, on 21 Jan.; RADNOR: three sites during Jan. to March; DENBIGH: Llyn Brenig on 21-23 March; World's End on 22 March.

Second winter period: GOWER: Afan Forest on 21 and 31 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Plumstone Mountain from 23 Dec. to year end (presumed returning bird from Feb.-April); BRECON: The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 28 Oct.; above Llysdinam on 14 Dec.; Llangorse Common from 26 Dec. into 2021 (likely to be returning bird from Jan.); MEIRIONNYDD: Coed Celyn on 3 Nov.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* CIGYDD PENGOCH

Scarce migrant from southern Europe. WBRC: 121 previous records.

PEMBROKE: male on Skomer on 12-14 May; ANGLESEY: male at Cemlyn on 26 May.

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus* FIREO LLYGATGOCH

Very rare visitor from North America. BBRC: six previous records.

PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 12 Oct. was the first Welsh record since 2001.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* EURYN

Scarce migrant from southern Europe, usually as a spring overshoot. WBRC: 214 previous records.

CAERNARFON: male on Bardsey on 2 June.

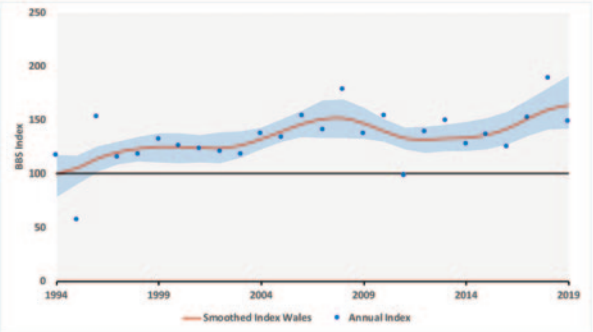
JAY *Garrulus glandarius* SGRECH Y COED

Fairly common and widespread resident (35,500 territories), though scarce in west Llŷn and much of Anglesey. Autumn/winter influxes from the east occur irregularly. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2571	2794
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	12%

A new high for the Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index, 52% above its 1994 level.

Breeding Bird Survey: Jay in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Counts of 10+: E.GLAMORGAN: 13 along R. Taff at Llandaff on 30 Jan.

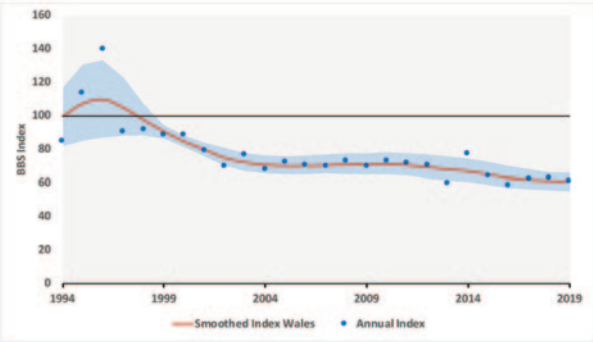
MAGPIE *Pica pica* PIODEN

Fairly common and widespread resident (79,500 territories). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	9599	11013
% of BirdTrack lists	52%	50%

In contrast to Jay, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 43% below the 1994 baseline, whereas the population is stable in England and Northern Ireland, and there has been a marked increase in Scotland. The proportion of BirdTrack lists registering Magpie has fallen from 58% in 2016. It is conceivable that Magpie will qualify as a Red List species in Wales at the next assessment…

Breeding Bird Survey: Magpie in Wales, 1994 - 2019



The only other comparable breeding season data is on Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where 10 pairs raised 28 young (*cf*. 12 pairs and 34 young in 2018).

Counts of 20+: GWENT: 30+ at Parc Nant-y-Waun on 15 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 21 at Ystrad Mynach on 26 Feb.; 22 at Canton - R. Ely and Victoria Park on 21 March; 25 at Tredelerch on 21 March; 20 at Cardiff Bay on 12 June; max. 53 at Kenfig NNR on 16 Nov.; 54 at Whitchurch on 28 Nov.; GOWER: 21 at Cwmrhydyceiriw on 2 Feb.; 31 at Port Talbot on 17 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 29 at Cross Hands on 2 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 50 at Teifi Marshes on 11 Oct.; BRECON: 24 at Libanus on 5 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 76 at Aber Ogwen on 13 Feb.; on Bardsey, 29 in April, 33 in Aug., 31 in Sept. and 40 in Oct.; DENBIGH: 22 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool on 8 Feb. and 20 here on 30 Aug.; FLINT: 28 at Rhuthun on 8 Feb.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* BRAN GOESGOCH

Uncommon resident, mainly on cliff coasts of the western seaboard (252-278 pairs in 2014). RBBP: 222-254 pairs in 2018. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1268	1471
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

Analysis by the Cross and Stratford Welsh Chough Project and RSPB Cymru of nest monitoring data, chick colour-

ringing and sightings of foraging Choughs in Mid and North Wales found that the occupation rate of coastal territories fell by 12% and inland territories by 72% between 1994 and 2019. The number of chicks fledged per occupied territory fell by 25% across the study area and while survival was high and stable for older adults and for Choughs in their first year of life, it decreased significantly for first-time breeders. The rate at which young birds recruited to the breeding population had also fallen, and more so at inland territories. Colour-ring re-sightings showed pre-breeders were often highly cosmopolitan in their use of feeding areas but that flock sizes at inland feeding areas had declined. These results suggest a decline in the quality of some breeding territories and that the existing Welsh Chough SPA network is insufficient to secure the population, based on JNCC criteria (based on summary in Burns *et al*. 2020 of analysis funded by Natural Resources Wales).

Breeding season 2019: the population in Pembrokeshire was stable and a much higher proportion of nests were successful (14 more than in 2018), with a minimum of 157 young fledging. This was the highest number of fledged young since annual surveillance started in 1992, although productivity figures were about average for the period. In addition, 46-78 non-breeding birds were present during the spring in 10 coastal sectors (Haycock and Hodges 2020). In North and mid-Wales the mean number of young/brood ringed, the best consistent measure of breeding success, was 3.2, the best since 2013.

	Occupied territories	Nests	Nests from which young fledged	Min. no of young fledged	Young fledged/ successful nest
GOWER	5	2 nests at one site, one with 1 young and one with 4			
PEMBROKE	78	72	60	157	2.6

E.GLAMORGAN: no confirmed breeding but up to three were at various locations along the Heritage Coast from 13 Feb. into Nov. with four on 30 March; two at Rest Bay on 3 Nov. were quite distant from the usual sites.

Monitoring by the Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, with additional data from Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory:

	Nests[1]	Broods ringed	Young ringed	Young/brood ringed
CEREDIGION	15-28	7	19	2.7
MEIRIONNYDD	11	5	12	2.4
CAERNARFON	86-88	30	100	3.5[2]
ANGLESEY	42-43	17	53	3.1
DENBIGH	2	1	4	4.0

1. Range shows min. (confirmed and probable pairs) to max. (with possible breeding pairs added).
2. In Caernarfonshire, mean brood sizes were calculated from full brood size where incomplete broods were ringed.

Non-breeding: notable counts in Jan. to April. GOWER: 15 at Rhossili on 2 Feb., and 21 here on 9th; 20 over Mewslade Valley on 14 Feb.; 24 over Nitton Field on 15 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 21 at RSPB South Stack on 27 March.

Counts at 50 roost sites in late August/early September, co-ordinated by RSPB Cymru, found 236 Chough (*cf*. 205 in 2018). Numbers increased slightly in MEIRIONNYDD/North CEREDIGION (35, *cf*. 31) and on ANGLESEY (28, *cf*. 23), and more substantially (173, *cf*. 151) in CAERNARFON.

Notable counts during July to Dec.: GOWER: 17 at Paviland on 23 July; 21 at Rhossili on 15 Sept.; PEMBROKE: max. 155 in autumn roosts at nine locations (*cf*. 67 at five sites in 2018), including 42 at Strumble, 40 on Ramsey and 32 at Castlemartin; CEREDIGION: 21 at Mwnt on 25 July and 23 here on 11 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 20+ at Braich-y-pwll on 20 Oct.; 17 on Snowdon on 23 July; 14 in Nant Ffrancon on 3 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 16 at Rhoscolyn on 4 July; 41 at Cemlyn on 19 Sept.; 20+ at Carmel Head on 22 Sept.; DENBIGH: 13 at Pentrefelin on 15 Oct.

Monthly maximum counts on Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey		9	19	22	18	18	22	28	23	25	7	

Ringing: CEREDIGION: one colour-ringed as a nestling near Aberystwyth on 27 May 1996 was resighted near Llanrhystud on 7 June 2019. At 23 years and 11 days old, this becomes the oldest known Chough in the British ringing scheme.

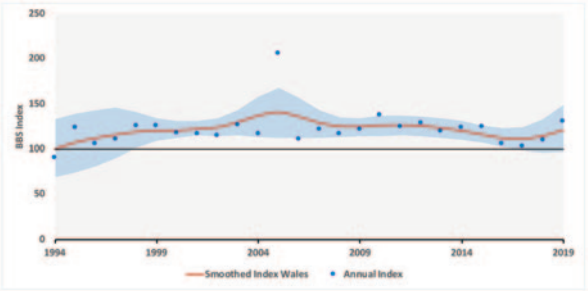
JACKDAW *Coloeus monedula* JAC-Y-DO

Fairly common and widespread resident (155,000 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	9245	10584
% of BirdTrack lists	50%	47%

Notwithstanding the 'bump' in 2005, the Breeding Bird Survey index has been very stable, 7% above its 1994 level.

Breeding Bird Survey: Jackdaw in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Max. monthly counts from sites holding 300 or more at least once: GWENT: 700 at Parc Bryn Bach on 19 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 400 over Trecco Bay on 7 Jan.; 400 over Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 7 Jan. and 500 here on 5 Feb.; 350 at Canton-Cardiff on 14 July; 400 over Bargoed on 4 Oct.; 400 at Robertstown on 14 Oct.; 500 over Kenfig NNR on 20 Oct.; 3000 over Cwm Bach on 20 Oct.; 450 over Dunraven on 22 Oct.; 400 over Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 9 Nov.; 600 over Abertridwr on 17 Dec.; GOWER: up to 500 in Port Talbot between Jan. and March; 1500 over Port Tennant refuse tip on 16 Feb.; 800 over Briton Ferry/Baglan in both winter periods; 500 regularly over Neath town centre in both winter periods, 1500 here on 10 July and 1000+ on 23 Dec.; 1000 at Rhossili on 20 Oct; PEMBROKE: 500 at Lydstep on 28 Jan. and 900 here on 16 Aug.; 300 at Poppit on 17 Feb.; 300 at Dale on 13 Oct.; 500 at Marloes Mere on 23 Oct. and 1000 here on 29 Dec.; 1000 at the Gann est. on 29 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 500 at Llyn Eiddwen on 27 July; CAERNARFON: on autumn passage over Bardsey, 603 on 21 Oct., 340 on 28th and 611 on 30th; DENBIGH: 500 at Groes on 8 July; 342 at Faenol Fawr on 13 Aug.; 255 at Lleweni on 24 Dec.; FLINT: 380 at Connah's Quay NR in Dec.; 500 at Rhydymwyn on 6 Dec.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* YDFRAN

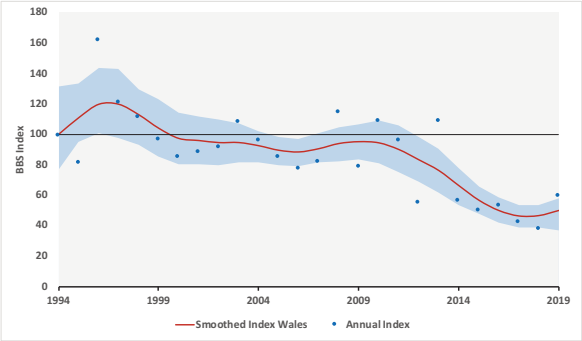
Fairly common resident, breeding mainly below 300m (35,500 pairs). The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2177	2577
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	11%

An improvement in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019 appears to have stemmed the downward trend, but it remains 58% below its 1994 level, and may well qualify for the Welsh Red List of conservation concern at its next assessment.

Some evidence of an increase in AONs at rookeries counted in southeast Wales, following several years of decline: E.GLAMORGAN: 842 AON at 29 rookeries (*cf.* 583 at 24 sites in 2018), largest 67 at Brocastle; GOWER: 539 AON at 30 rookeries (*cf.* 528 at 30 sites in 2018), largest 56 at Lagadranta Farm; PEMBROKE:

Breeding Bird Survey: Rook in Wales, 1994 - 2019



breeding evidence from 19 locations; BRECON: 263 AON at nine rookeries (*cf*. 217 at nine in 2018), largest 66 at Groesffordd; MEIRIONNYDD: 92 nests at two rookeries, largest 83 at Frongoch; CAERNARFON: 120 AON at eight rookeries *(cf*. 152 at eight in 2018), largest 36 at Felinheli.

Counts of 100+ away from rookeries: E.GLAMORGAN: 103 over Portobello, Ogmore est., on 8 Feb.; GOWER: 140 at Llanrhidian Marsh on 29 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 200 at Broad Haven between 23 March and 30 April and on 18 May, 22 July and 25 Aug.; 300 at St. Brides on 27 June; 200 at Freshwater West on 27 Aug.; 300 at Lydstep on 11-16 Aug.; BRECON: 100 at WTSWW Y Byddwn on 1 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 100+ at the Inland Sea on 9 Jan.; DENBIGH: 315 at Faenol Fawr on 26 Feb.

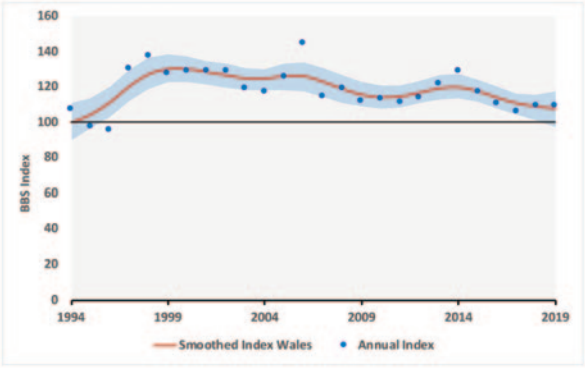
CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* BRAN DYDDYN

Abundant and widespread resident (160,000 territories). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	12279	14632
% of BirdTrack lists	68%	65%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen by 9% in the last five years, but nonetheless remains 4% above its 1994 level.

Breeding Bird Survey: Carrion Crow in Wales, 1994 - 2019



The only site with comparable breeding information is Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where the population declined to seven pairs, the lowest number since 2014. A minimum of 14 young fledged.

Counts of 100+: E.GLAMORGAN: 352 at Newton Pt on 14 Nov.; GOWER: 181 at Penclawdd on 11 Aug.; 100 at Dalton's Pt on 17 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 239 at Kidwelly Quay on 6 July and 278 here on 14th; PEMBROKE: 150 at Lydstep on 11 Aug.; 100 at Marloes Mere on 6 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 150 at Llyn Eiddwen on 27 July; up to 500 in a pre-roost on the Dyfi sand flats in Nov. and Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 200 at Mynydd Mynyllod on 21 June.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* BRAN LWYD

Uncommon and irregular wanderer to Wales, presumed from Ireland, and mainly to west coast in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	68	237
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A remarkable flock of 35 on Anglesey is by far the largest ever recorded in Wales, but it was otherwise a less than ordinary year, with *c*.25 others recorded.

Single birds: GWENT: one at Parc Lettis in the second winter period; PEMBROKE: Croesgoch on 31 Jan.; Gann est. from 2 Jan. to 28 Feb.; Nevern est. on 25 March; Skokholm on 25 March; Pencarnan campsite on 2 April and 17-21 Oct.; St Justinians on 13 April and 8 Sept.; Porthgain on 1 May; CAERNARFON: Betws

Hooded Crow (Cameron Sharp)

y Coed on 25 Feb.; Penmaenmawr Quarry on 28 Feb.; Aberdaron on 16 April; Uwchmynydd on 14 May; Bardsey on 18-20 Sept. and 20 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Newborough Forest on 7 March; Cemlyn in early May and 13 June; Carmel Head on 9 June; FLINT: Point of Ayr on 18 Jan.; Connah's Quay NR on 7 June.

Multiple records: CAERNARFON: up to two on Bardsey between 23 March and 6 June; ANGLESEY: 1-2 in the Holyhead area all year, usually foraging outside McDonalds, but also seen elsewhere on Holy Island; 35 at The Range on 2 Feb.

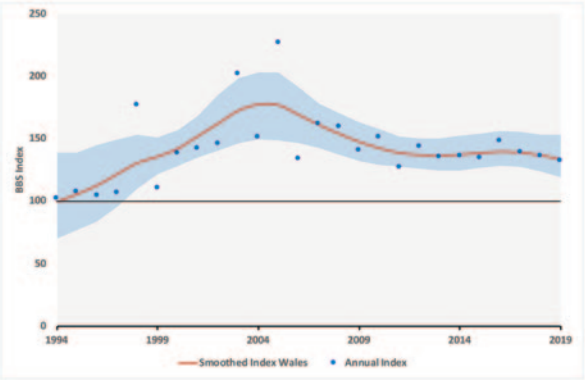
RAVEN *Corvus corax* CIGFRAN

Uncommon but widespread resident (2,150 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	4435	5182
% of BirdTrack lists	22%	21%

Raven numbers monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey had been on a sustained increase during its first 10 years, but have fallen 24% since 2005. Nonetheless, they remain 29% above the 1994 baseline.

Breeding Bird Survey: Raven in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Counts of 10+: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Pant-yr-Awel in Jan.; 25 along the ridge south of the Ogmore est. on 2 Feb.; GOWER: 36 at Crymlyn Bog on 16 Feb. and 37 here on 13 Aug.; 100 at Jersey Marine on 22 April and 39 on 23rd; CARMARTHEN: 15 on Mynydd Du on 8 Sept.; PEMBROKE: max. 20 on Skomer on 8 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 28 at Cwm Wyre, Llanrhystud, on 21 Jan.; 24 at Llanilar on 23 Sept.; BRECON: 41 at Roman Road, Trecastle, on 27 Aug.; 14 at Rhos Dirion on 8 Sept.; RADNOR: 24 at Stowe Hill Plantation on 12 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 in Llyn Cynwch area on 17 Sept.; 16 at Ganllwyd on 29 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 12 at Bangor on 29 March, 15 here on 14 Oct., 65 on 15th and 17 on 21st; 12 on the Great Orme on 1 March; 12 at Coedydd Aber on 20 Nov.; peak of 11 on Bardsey on 12 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 29 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 7 July.

Roost counts (max.):

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Blaencanaid	157	217	167	54	169	191	206	295	145	55	68	42
ANGLESEY												
Newborough Forest											300	

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* CYNFFON SIDAN

Uncommon winter visitor, though annual numbers vary greatly.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	6	32
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

First winter period: BRECON: 7-8 in Crickhowell on 20-23 Jan. and two here on 24th; RADNOR: two records in Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 32 at Llanidloes on 3 Jan.; 40 at Welshpool on 3 Jan.; 1-2 at Newtown on 6-20 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: two in Dolgellau on 1 April; CAERNARFON: one at Llandudno on 22-23 Jan.; DENBIGH: two at Trevor on 2 Feb.

Second winter period: ANGLESEY: 25 south over Malltraeth Cob on 29 Oct.

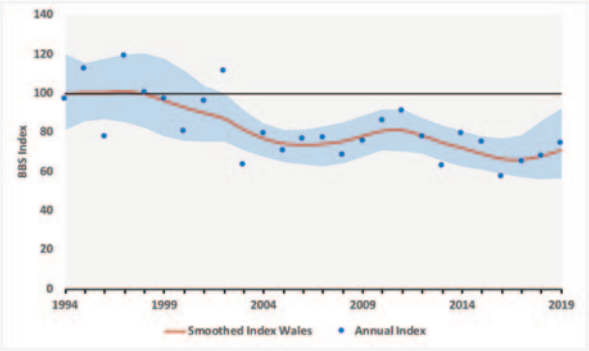
COAL TIT *Periparus ater* TITW PENDDU

Fairly common and widespread resident (75,000 territories), most numerous in conifer woodlands. Rare passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	3496	4012
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	17%

The trend in Breeding Bird Survey indices varies considerably across the UK, but that for Wales has fallen significantly, by 32% since 1994.

Breeding Bird Survey: Coal Tit in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Counts of 10+: E.GLAMORGAN: 19 at Glenboi on 23 Feb.; 22 at Onllwyn on 10 March; 15 at Abernant on 23 March; 21 at Llwyn-on Res. on 8 Sept.; 22 at Coed Taf Fawr on 24 Nov. and 15 here on 28 Dec.; GOWER: 12 at Briton Ferry on 2 Jan.; 20 at Tonmawr on 2 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 26 in Cwm Einion on 10 Jan.; BRECON: 10 in Buckland Wood on 4 Jan.; 18 in Priory Groves, Brecon, on 10 Feb.; 12 at Usk Res. on 23 Feb.; 20 in Crychan Forest on 26 Feb.; during March, 14 in Mynydd Du Forest, 12 in Priory Groves, 13 in Cwm Dyfnant and 15 in Pant Mawr; 15 in Buckland Wood on 15 Nov.; 20 at Craig-y-nos CP on 20 Dec.; RADNOR: 15 at Black Hill on 29 July and 11 here on 24 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 at Ceinws on 9 March; 10+ at Bod Petryal on 28 July; CAERNARFON: 10 in Coedydd Aber on 16 June; fall of at least 47 on Bardsey on 6 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 10 at Plas Newydd on 10 Feb.; DENBIGH: 18 at Gwern on 3 Dec.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* TITW'R WERN

Uncommon and localised resident (4850 territories), probably declining throughout Wales and absent from large parts of the north and west. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	296	285
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Fewer breeding season records (43) than in 2018 *(cf*. 68), but that most likely reflects the lack of information from Gwent and detail of the numbers at sites in Montgomeryshire, both of which have been recent strongholds.

Breeding season (mid-April to June): GWENT: present at Llandegfedd Res. in late June; E.GLAMORGAN: present at six sites but no evidence of confirmed or probable breeding; GOWER: probably bred at Oxwich Marsh; present at Clyne Woods and Ilston; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at seven sites; largest count of seven by R. Cresswell on 4 June; BRECON: 16 Marsh Tit territories in nine of 26 tetrads visited for the national Willow Tit survey; seven pairs elsewhere, and singles at three sites; RADNOR: present at Tyclau Hill on 28 April; MONTGOMERY: bred in nest-boxes at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy and MWT Dyfnant Meadows; DENBIGH: singles on single dates at Chirk, Ruabon, Froncysyllte and Llangwm; FLINT: singing at Penycloddiau on 19 and 25 May.

Non-breeding season, all single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: up to three at Great Barnet Woods; two at Osbaston in Sept.; Penallt in both winter periods; present at six other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: five sites, including two at Cosmeston Lakes CP in Sept. and Dec.; GOWER: two in Clyne Valley on 1 Jan.; two in Briton Ferry Woods on 2 Jan.; two at Fairwood Lodge on 2 Feb.; three at High Pennard on 18 Feb.; two

at Lodge Cwm Parkmill on 27 Feb.; regular at garden feeders in Killay; CARMARTHEN: 10 sites; PEMBROKE: 38 sites; BRECON: Jan. to mid-April: two pairs in WTSWW Drostre Wood, pairs in Buckland Wood and Llanwrthwl, singles at 10 other sites; July-Dec.: 1-2 at 12 sites, and three at Lower Chapel and Talybont Res. in Dec. RADNOR: 1-3 at nine sites; MONTGOMERY: six sites; MEIRIONNYDD: two sites; CAERNARFON: four sites, including three birds at Coed Parc Mawr on 3 Feb.; DENBIGH: 1-2 at 12 sites.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus* TITW'R HELYG

Uncommon, localised and declining resident (c.1500 pairs), mostly in west and central Wales. RBBP: 88 pairs in 2018. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	83	153
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A welcome increase in the number reported through BirdTrack may be an artifice of the national survey undertaken in 2019-21, organised by the RSPB and supported by WOS. In 2019-20, Willow Tits were found in 56% (279) of Welsh tetrads that had been occupied since 2000. A provisional population of 1,541 territories (1,177-1,919) has been estimated, which will be refined following an additional season's fieldwork. The core range is now north Pembrokeshire, south Ceredigion (particularly around Cors Caron), north Carmarthenshire, north Breconshire and Montgomeryshire.

Survey results and breeding season: GWENT: pair at Wentwood in April; one near Gilwern in May; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Penmoelallt; probably bred at Hirwaun, Penderyn Res., Trecynon and Coed Taf Fawr/Garwnant forestry; GOWER: probably bred at Crynant, Bishopston Valley; present in Rheola Pond area; PEMBROKE: 38-44 territories in 13 of the 22 priority tetrads visited, all in the north of the county; also reported during the year from 12 locations, including up to four in Ffynonne on 19 March and six in Pantmaenog on 18 June; CEREDIGION: recorded in numerous locations in an area bounded roughly by Bronant/Cors Caron/Llangybi/Cross Inn Forest (e.g. 12 territories in Bethania/Cross Inn and six between Llangybi and Llanio); BRECON: 19-21 territories in 10 of 26 tetrads surveyed, mostly in the west of the county and in commercial forestry with broadleaf seams and wet scrubby areas; birds responded at nine additional sites; family party at Pont-ar-wysg on 24 June; RADNOR: two at RWT Gilfach on 1 May; MONTGOMERY: 40 territories included five nests at Lake Vyrnwy, four of them in nest-boxes; MEIRIONNYDD: two territories in Craig Arthbry area on 28 March; pair in Clocaenog Forest on 30 March; DENBIGH: two at Fenn's Moss on 7 May; one at Wern-ddu on 12 May.

Outside the breeding season (singles unless otherwise stated): E.GLAMORGAN: 77 reports from 21 locations, max. four at Garwnant on 3 Feb.; GOWER: Whiteford Burrows on 8 Jan.; Dyffryn Cellwyn on 14 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: records from eight sites; BRECON: 10 sites, with pairs at Battle Hill on 31 Aug., The Cwm on 14 Sept., Glyn Tarrell and Crai in Oct.; three in Glasfynydd Forest on 9 Nov.; two parties of three at Pont-ar-wysg on 24 Nov.; RADNOR: 1-2 at Llanwrthwl in Feb., March, July and Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: two at feeders in Abergynolwyn in Oct. and Nov.; DENBIGH: Froncysyllte on 29 Jan.; two at Pont yr Alwen on 26 Feb.; Sontley on 15 March; Wrexham on 29 Nov.; two at Fenn's Moss on 4 Dec.

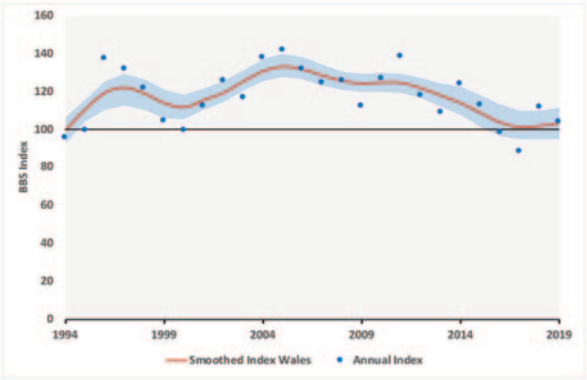
BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* TITW TOMOS LAS

Abundant resident (415,000 territories), most numerous in deciduous woodland but more widespread in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	9819	11344
% of BirdTrack lists	53%	51%

A couple of better-than-average years has halted the decline in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, which has fallen 19% in the last ten years.

Breeding Bird Survey: Blue Tit in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Breeding information for specific study areas suggests improved productivity over last year: 6.3 young/nest from 93 boxes (*cf.* 5.87/nest in 2018), very similar to the recent UK average. GOWER: 50 pairs at Cwm Clydach produced eggs, from which 46 pairs fledged 309 young (6.2 young/nest, *cf*.6.3 in 2018); CARMARTHEN: 23 pairs in boxes at Halfway, Llandovery, had an average clutch size of 10.4 (6.2 young/nest); BRECON: mean clutch size in nine occupied nest-boxes at WTSWW Coed Dyrysiog, Soar, was 9.3 eggs, fledging 56 young (6.2 young/nest); seven nests at WTSWW Drostre Wood, Llanwern, held 64 eggs (mean clutch size 9.1) and fledged 48 young (6.9 young/nest); MEIRIONNYDD: four boxes at Coed Crafnant fledged 26 young (6.5 per nest *cf*. 9.75 in 2018).

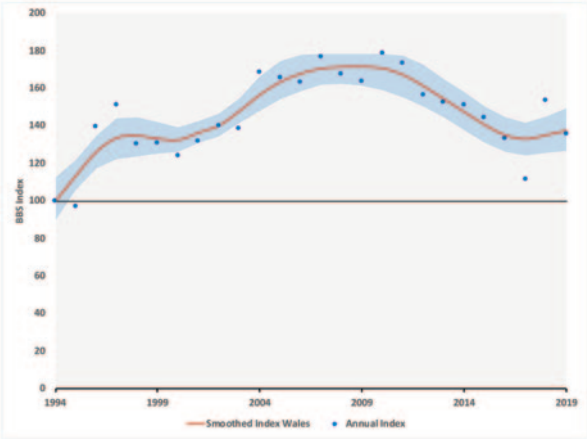
GREAT TIT *Parus major* TITW MAWR

Abundant and widespread throughout Wales up to c.500m above sea level except on small islands (255,000 territories). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	7241	8767
% of BirdTrack lists	39%	39%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales declined by 22% during 2009-17, but this seems to have bottomed-out in the last couple of years, and the index remains 19% above its 1994 baseline. The demographic trends across the UK are almost entirely negative, with reductions in clutch and brood size since the late 1960s. The little information on productivity in bird reports this year suggests that it was a somewhat better season than 2018.

Breeding Bird Survey: Great Tit in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Breeding: GOWER: 29 nests at Cwm Clydach fledged 143 young from 24 nests (mean 4.9, *cf*. 3.5 in 2018); CARMARTHEN: in nest-boxes at Halfway, Llandovery, clutch size at 7.0 was low but the average number of fledged young was mid-range at 6.33.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* TITW BARFOG

Breeds at Newport Wetlands Reserve (RBBP: six pairs in 2018) and occurs occasionally at other reedbeds in southeast Wales. Bred in Anglesey (1967-69) and Gower (1973-86). Elsewhere, rare autumn and winter visitor. WBRC: 13 records away from Gwent and East Glamorgan. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	11	92
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: GWENT: six territories at Newport Wetlands Reserve.

Non-breeding: E GLAMORGAN: two at Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve, first seen in Oct. 2018, were present until 19 Feb.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* EHEDYDD COED

Former breeding species; occurs in small numbers each winter.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	14	12
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Non-breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 flew south over Lavernock Pt on 14 Oct., one here on 19 Oct., five on 16 Nov. and one on 17th; two at Newton Pt on 11 Nov.; four at St. Mary's Well Bay on 24-25 Nov.; GOWER: three at Middleton/Mewslade on 13 Oct.; singles at Rhossili on 14 and 28 Oct.; CAERNARFON: singles on or over Bardsey on 15, 16 and 21 Oct.

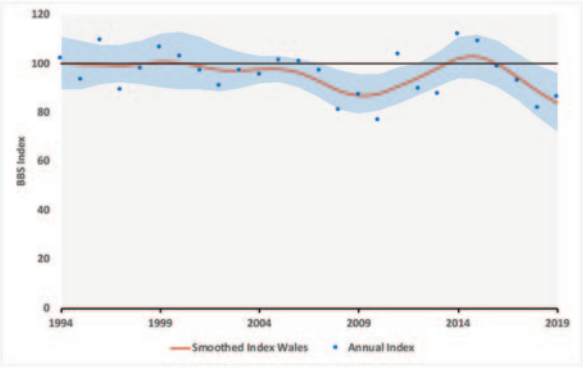
SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* EHEDYDD

Fairly common and widespread but declining breeding species (115,000 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2399	2915
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%

The last few years have seen the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales veer away from a stable trend to one of decline. The smoothed trend is at its lowest point, 17% below its 1994 baseline.

Breeding Bird Survey: Skylark in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large counts (100+): GOWER: 100 at Rhossili Pt on 2 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 409 at Gupton-Castlemartin Corse on 30 Jan. and 180 on 17 Dec.; 119 at Treseissyllt on 16 Feb. and 119 here on 3 Nov.; 250 at Martins Haven-Deer Park on 19 Oct.; 500 at Dale Airfield on 2 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 107 between Morfa Madryn and Llanfairfechan on 12 Oct.; 100+ at Foryd on 19 Oct.; migration on Bardsey peaked at 102 on 30 Sept., 145 on 14 Oct. and 788 on 15th, the largest autumn passage count here since 1986; FLINT: 115 at Flint Saltmarsh on 15 Dec.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* EHEDYDD TRAETH

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and rare winter visitor, from northeast Europe. WBRC: 293 individuals recorded.

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Newton Pt on 10-11 Nov.; CAERNARFON: one at Aberdaron on 15 Nov.; FLINT: two at Gronant on 1 Nov.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* EHEDYDD LLWYD

Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 35 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 22-23 and 26-27 June.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Locally common breeding visitor, most numerous in eastern counties. Passage migrant elsewhere. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**1088**	**1506**
% of BirdTrack lists	**5%**	**6%**

Breeding colonies (AON): E.GLAMORGAN: 40 at Caerphilly Castle; 25 at Lanlay Meadows, R. Ely; total of 18 at six other sites; GOWER: 132-134 AON at 15 sites; CARMARTHEN: 150 nest holes in ash cliffs at Burry Port; PEMBROKE: 50 AON at Abermawr; five at Nolton Haven; CEREDIGION: 20 AON at Abermagwr; BRECON: 135 AON along R. Usk between Llansantffraed and Pencelli; four at Upper Chapel; one at Abergwesyn; MEIRIONNYDD: 110 AON in Mochras dune ridge; 122 in muddy sea cliff at Tonfanau; 25 birds at Pont Dyfrdwy, Cynwyd, where they nest in holes in the bridge; *c.*10 smaller colonies; CAERNARFON: 150 birds around Morfa Nefyn and the colony at Porthdinllaen; 15 birds around the cliff colony near Llanengan; 20 AON at Trwyn Maen Dylan; numerous birds along the coast between Porthmadog and Caernarfon, apparently breeding on four sections.

There was an early arrival of a small number of birds in the second half of February, with records from that month in six of the 14 recording areas.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	28 Feb.	Usk		23 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	27 Feb.	Cardiff Bay		2 Oct.	Dunraven
GOWER	20 Feb.	Cwm Ivy		1 Sept.	Margam Moors
CARMARTHEN	4 March	Sandy WP		**12 Oct.**	**Banc y Lord**
PEMBROKE	28 Feb.	Westfield Pill		2 Oct.	Marloes Mere
CEREDIGION	5 April	RSPB Ynys-hir & Rheidiol GP			
BRECON	12 March	Llangorse Lake		1 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	1 April	Machynlleth			
RADNOR	20 March	Glasbury		22 Sept.	Llowes
MEIRIONNYDD	21 March	Glandyfi & Cynwyd		29 Aug.	Fairbourne
CAERNARFON	**16 Feb.**	**Morfa Nefyn**		8 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	3 March	Llyn Cefni		14 Sept.	Beaumaris
DENBIGH	3 March	RSPB Conwy		14 Aug.	Lleweni Watermeadows
FLINT	28 Feb.	Rhyl Brickworks Pool		27 Aug.	Rhyl

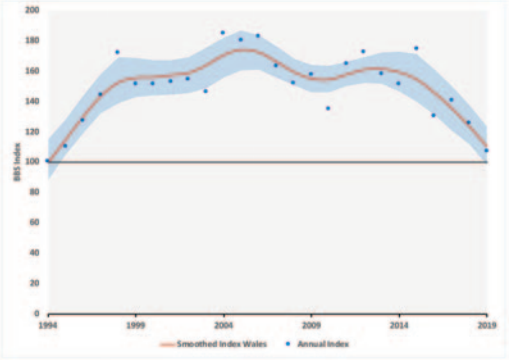
Large counts (100+): GWENT: max. spring count 500+ at Goldcliff on 10 April and in autumn *c*.200 on 3 Aug.; *c*.180 at Abergavenny on 20 April; max. *c*.300 at Llanvihangel Gobion on 5 May; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 1 April; 1000+ at Cardiff Bay on 4 April, 150 here on 8th, 1500+ on 9th and 200 on 10th; 200 at Kenfig Saltmarsh on 5 April; 500 at Kenfig NNR on 9 April; 100 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 9 April; 600 at Pontcanna Fields on 15 April; 150 at Tirfounder Fields on 18 April; 200 at Kenfig Pool on 15 July; 150 at Tirfounder Fields on 6 Aug.; 100 at Cardiff Bay on 9 Aug.; 100 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 16-17 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 250 at Pembrey Harbour on 9 July; PEMBROKE: 200 at Trefeiddan on 28 March; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 270 at Teifi Marshes on 23 March and 300 here on 10 April; CEREDIGION: 180 at Ynyslas on 1 April; 220 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 3 April; BRECON: 150 at Llangorse Lake on 30 March and 170 on 31st; up to 1000 at Llangorse Lake in harsh weather on 3 April, 500 here on 2 May, 200 on 8 July and 130 on 20th; MONTGOMERY: 150 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 4 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 at Barmouth on 10 April; ANGLESEY: 150 at Llyn Cefni on 28 March and 225 here on 15 April; 142 at Llyn Maelog on 26 July.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* GWENNOL

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor (82,000 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	4828	5621
% of BirdTrack lists	24%	23%

Breeding Bird Survey: Swallow in Wales, 1994 - 2019



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has continued a decline that began around 2006 and completing an arc that leaves the population just 7% above its 1994 baseline.

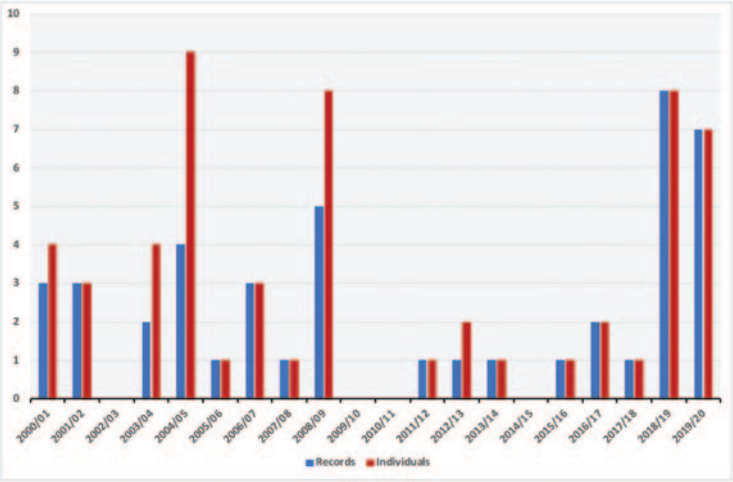
The only comparable nesting data came from CAERNARFON: ten pairs nested on Bardsey, one more than in 2018, most pairs raising more than one brood, producing a minimum total of 69 young.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	25 Feb.	Newport Wetlands		4 Dec.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	19 March	Watermill flood		**18 Dec.**	**Merthyr Mawr**
GOWER	**16 Feb.**	**Cwm Ivy Tor**		16 Oct.	Bryn
CARMARTHEN	30 March	Burry Port		4 Nov.	Pendine
PEMBROKE	14 March	Haverfordwest		8 Dec.	Teifi Marshes
CEREDIGION	17 March	Teifi Marshes		15 Oct.	Ynyslas
BRECON	24 March	Llangorse Lake		27 Oct.	Libanus
MONTGOMERY	30 March	Llangurig		13 Oct.	Welshpool
RADNOR	28 March	Boughrood		20 Oct.	Glasbury
MEIRIONNYDD	2 March	Dyfi Junction		4 Oct.	Glandyfi
CAERNARFON	20 March	Foryd		24 Oct.	Traeth Crugan
ANGLESEY	24 Feb.	Pt Lynas and Porth Eilian		17 Dec.	Brynsiencyn
DENBIGH	7 March	RSPB Conwy		9 Oct.	Rhuthun
FLINT	21 Feb.	Bagillt		2 Nov.	Gronant

Large counts (300+) on autumn passage: GWENT: 500+ at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 14 Sept.; 300 at St Brides on 5 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 400 at Flat Holm on 26 Aug.; 500 at Dunraven on 13 Sept., 400 here on 14th and, 350 on 19th; 600 at Lavernock Pt on 18 Sept., 800 here on 20th, 390 on 21st, 350 on 13 Oct. and 450 on 14th; PEMBROKE: 500 at Teifi Marshes on 23 Aug.; 421 at Skokholm on 14 Sept.; CAERNARFON: peaks on Bardsey of 546 on 25 Sept. and 858 on 30th; ANGLESEY: 400 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 28 Aug.

Winter: pattern similar to Sand Martin, but even more irregular given the typical later arrival date. There were February records from four counties and December records from five counties. More than one-third of all winter records have been in the last two winters, and the chart below does not include records in January/February 2020 (see also page 215).

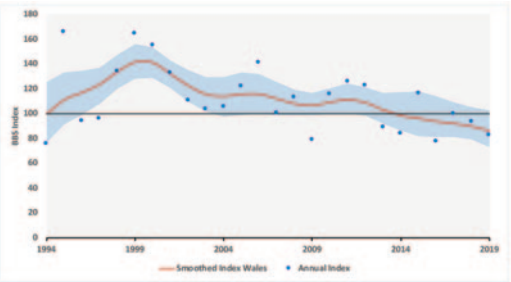


HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* GWENNOL Y BONDO

Fairly common summer visitor (67,500 pairs). The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2505	2935
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%

Breeding Bird Survey: House Martin in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Having reached a peak in 2000, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen throughout this century to its lowest ever level, 19% below its 1994 baseline and by 34% this century.

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 13 locations (133 AON), including 76 in the Penarth Marina/Glebe Street area of Cardiff and 17 on Brynffynon Hotel, Llanwonno; GOWER: bred at 28 locations; CARMARTHEN: 17 AON at Llanddeusant fish farm; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from 20 locations; BRECON: 18 AON at Penpont House; 14 pairs at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, all but one in artificial nests; pair

nested in a Swift box at Craig Lyn, Llanwrthwl; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded at 45 sites, but indications of breeding at only four, including two pairs at Aberdyfi House and two pairs at Llanuwchllyn; CAERNARFON: bred in Bangor, Abergwyngregyn, Ogwen Cottage and Penrhyn Castle; five pairs on Bardsey fledged at least 20 young (*cf*. two pairs in 2018).

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	24 Feb.	Newport Wetlands		27 Oct.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	7 March	Cardiff Bay		21 Oct.	Lavernock Pt
GOWER	1 April	Llanrhidian Marsh		20 Sept.	Llys Dol/Tircanol
CARMARTHEN	3 April	Penclacwydd		12 Oct.	Banc y Lord
PEMBROKE	18 March	Waun Llandruidion		9 Oct.	Cilgerran
CEREDIGION	31 March	Ynyslas		3 Oct.	Cwm Rheidiol
BRECON	3 April	Llangorse Lake		**29 Oct.**	**Libanus**
MONTGOMERY	14 April	Llyn Coed-y-Dinas			
RADNOR	6 April	Glasbury		9 Oct.	Llanbister
MEIRIONNYDD	7 April	Lower Tryweryn		23 Oct.	Llanelltyd
CAERNARFON	25 March	Bardsey		12 Oct.	Morfa Madryn, Llanfairfechan
ANGLESEY	**19 Feb.**	**Traeth Lligwy**		4 Oct.	location not provided
DENBIGH	28 March	Trefriw		20 Oct.	Rossett
FLINT	5 April	Connah's Quay NR		5 Oct.	Caerwys

Large counts (200+): GWENT: 1280 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 13 Sept. and 300+ here on 14th; E.GLAMORGAN: 200 at Ogmore est. on 9 Aug.; 300 south of Nottage on 13 Sept.; 200 at Lavernock Pt on 20 Sept.; GOWER: 200 at Oxwich on 16 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 240 at Glandyfi on 7 Sept.; BRECON: 300 at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 3 Sept.; 1000+ feeding over Grwyne Fawr Farm on 27 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 240 at Glandyfi on 7 Sept.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropsis daurica* GWENNOL DINGOCH

Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 28 previous records.

All singles. E.GLAMORGAN/GOWER: Kenfig Rivermouth on 5 April; GOWER: Cwm Ivy on 16-24 Feb.; PEMBROKE: Bosherston on 22 Feb.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 25 Sept.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* TELOR CETTI

Uncommon but increasing resident (300-600 breeding pairs) in mid and south Wales and on Anglesey. Occasional away from core areas in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**849**	**1394**
% of BirdTrack lists	**4%**	**6%**

A partial recovery from the cold snap in 2018 is evident in the reporting rate on BirdTrack, although it remains below the 7% of lists recorded in 2016.

GWENT: max. 15 at Newport Wetlands Reserve in April and 20 here in Dec.; nine at Uskmouth power station in April; six at Magor Marsh in April and June; three at Coedkernew in April; two at Peterstone Gout and Peterstone Wentlooge in April; singles at three other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred along the Ely River Trail, Cors Crychydd Reen, Cosmeston Lakes CP and several locations at Kenfig NNR; monthly

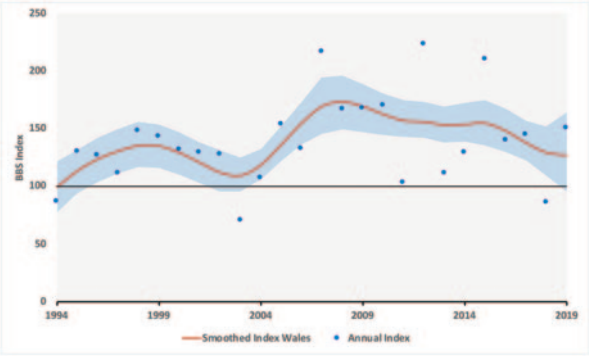
max. were five at Parc Tredelerch on 28 March, five at Kenfig NNR in May, eight at Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve in June and 10 at Cadoxton Ponds in Oct.; GOWER: bred at Oxwich; probably bred at Tir John pond, Crymlyn Bog/Tennant canal and Pant-y-Sais Fen; present at eight other sites; max. nine at Kenfig rivermouth on 16 May; 12 ringed at Oxwich in Oct. and early Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 47 singing males at 14 sites, including 17 at Penclacwydd and 12 at Machynys Golf Course; PEMBROKE: six singing males at Castlemartin Corse, three at Castlemorris, five at Llangloffan Fen NNR, and singles at seven other locations; CEREDIGION: five singing at Cors Fochno on 2 Jan.; singing birds in the breeding season at six other sites; also at Tanybwlch and Pen Dinas in March; three ringed at Teifi Marshes on 12-13 Sept.; BRECON: five territories at Llangorse Lake, where recently fledged juveniles were ringed in July; one sang by the R. Usk at Pencelli on 4 July; MONTGOMERY: singles at Cors Dyfi in June and Aug. and at Pwll Penarth on 24 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Glandyfi/Dyfi Junction on 6 April; two singing at Mochras scrub on 29 Oct.; CAERNARFON: singles at Morfa Uchaf on 25 Feb., Cors Geirch on 21 June and Nefyn on 17 Sept.; three near R. Seiont, Caernarfon, on 16 June; ANGLESEY: max. 10 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 26 March; also at RSPB Valley Wetlands, Rhoscolyn and Llyn Maelog; DENBIGH: one at RSPB Conwy from 10 Sept. to 2 Dec.; FLINT: 1-2 at Shotton from May to Sept.; two singing at Gronant in breeding season and up to four later in the year; one at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands in March and May; singles outside the breeding season at Rhydymwyn, White Sands and Talacre.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* TITW CYNFFONHIR

Fairly common resident (28,000 territories), widely distributed except on parts of Llŷn and Anglesey, and rare on other islands. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2917	3855
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	17%

Breeding Bird Survey: Long-tailed Tit in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Numbers have fallen over the last 10 years in a similar pattern to that of Great and Blue Tit, but to an even greater degree; the Breeding Bird Survey index is 25% lower than in 2008, though still 14% above its 1994 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate increased over 2018, but still remains below the 20% recorded in 2015.

Highest counts (20+): GWENT: 40 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 13 Jan. and 50 here on 6 July; 20 at Magor Marsh on 27 Oct.; 30 at Llanyrafon on 22 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Forest Farm on 12 Jan. and 23 here on 22nd; 10 reports of flocks of more than 20 between 19 Sept. and 27 Dec., including 45 at Dunraven on 28 Oct. and 32 here on 5 Nov., and 27 at Kenfig NNR on 16 Nov.; GOWER: 20 at St Madoc on 16 Oct.; 20 at Pwll Du on 20 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 23 at Penclacwydd in Oct.; PEMBROKE: 27 on Skomer on 28 Oct. and 36 here on 3 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 22 at Trefenter on 7 Oct.; 20 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 30 Oct.; BRECON: 27 in Lower Llangynidr on 1 Oct., 34 here by the end of the month and 36 on 22 Nov.; 30 in Brecon on 6 Nov.; 29 at Llanfilo on 18 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 20 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 23 Nov. and 24 here on 3 Dec.; DENBIGH: 24 at Froncysyllte on 6 Sept.; 21 at Chirk Castle on 24 Oct.; FLINT: 21 at RSPB Point of Ayr on 3 July; 32 at Rhuddlan NR on 19 Oct.; 23 at Queensferry on 30 Oct.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* TELOR COED

Localised and uncommon, but declining, summer visitor to upland woods (2850 breeding males). Passage migrant in small numbers at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	248	298
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: GWENT: singing males at 12 sites; 12 nests monitored in two locations in Wentwood but only four broods definitely fledged; E.GLAMORGAN: breeding confirmed only at Abercwmboi; probably bred at Blackmill and singing males at 18 other sites; GOWER: probably bred at Melicourt, Cwm Dyffryn and Cwm Gwrelych; present at 13 other sites; CARMARTHEN: no evidence of breeding, but birds were at Dinas in May and June; PEMBROKE: singing males at seven sites, including at least seven at Minwear; CEREDIGION: 10 at Cwm Clettwr NR by 23 April; 12 singing males in Cwm Einion on 2 May; nine at Hafod estate on 29 June; BRECON: present at 15+ sites, including nine singing males at Cnwch Wood; MONTGOMERY: well distributed, especially frequent around Lake Vyrnwy but no breeding evidence reported; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-6 singing in 35+ woodlands and confirmed breeding at Bod Petryal; CAERNARFON: present at 14 sites; DENBIGH: four pairs at Eglwyseg, incl. one confirmed breeding; FLINT: at least two pairs probably bred in Coed Llangwyfan, Penycloddiau, where adults took food to a nest on 23 June.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	20 April	Graig		27 July	Cwmtillery Lakes
E.GLAMORGAN	20 April	Maerdy Farm, Bargoed		29 July	Ogmore Vale
GOWER	19 April	Melincourt		8 June	Clyne Woods
CARMARTHEN	19 April	Allt Rhyd y Groes and Glan-Towy		18 June	Cwrt y Cadno
PEMBROKE	22 April	Pickle Wood			
CEREDIGION	**18 April**	**RSPB Ynys-hir**		29 June	Hafod estate
BRECON	19 April	Allt Yscoedreddfin, Halfway		23 June	Cwm Meity and Meity Fawr
MONTGOMERY	20 April	near Machynlleth			
RADNOR	29 April	Elan Valley		29 June	Gilfach Farm NR
MEIRIONNYDD	26 April	Coed Dolgoch, Abergynolwyn		**11 Aug.**	**Castell y Bere**
CAERNARFON	21 April	Trefriw		19 June	Tŷ Hyll
DENBIGH	29 April	Coed Hafod		16 July	Ty-tan-derw, Bryn Eglwys
FLINT	18 April	Rhydymwyn		23 June	Penycloddiau

Wood Warbler (Tony Pope)

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* TELOR BONELLI Y GORLLEWIN

Very rare passage migrant. BBRC: 14 previous records (five others not attributed to species).

CAERNARFON: one at Uwchmynydd from 31 Aug. to 5 Sept.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* TELOR AELFELYN

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, from northeast Europe.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	83	78
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A poor year by recent standards. Two found in February may have overwintered, and one at Breakwater CP, Anglesey, on 9 Dec. may also have been making an attempt to do so.

Number of birds in each county.

Monthly occurrence	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN						1	1	
GOWER						2		
PEMBROKE		1			1	7	1	
CEREDIGION						2		
BRECON						1		
CAERNARFON						4+	2	
Bardsey					2	9		
ANGLESEY						6	1	1
FLINT		1						

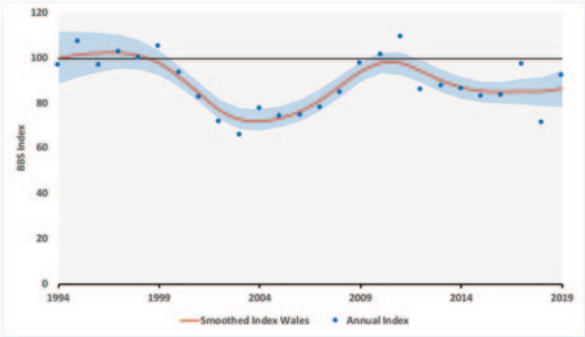
WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* TELOR HELYG

Abundant summer visitor (265,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Numerous up to c.670m but becoming less common in lowland habitats in the south. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2637	3318
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	14%

2019 was a better year for Willow Warblers than the recent average, and helped drag the long-term reduction in the Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index for Wales back from -28% in 1995-2017 to just -16% in 1995-2018. In England, Willow Warbler numbers have fallen by around half over the same period, especially in the south.

Breeding Bird Survey: Willow Warbler in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Selected breeding season records: E.GLAMORGAN: 51 at Kenfig NNR on 18 April and 42 at Brithdir on 21 April; bred at Abercwmboi Lake, Blackmill, Dare Valley CP, Hirwaun Welfare, Llantrisant Common, Pen-y-graig (Treharris) and Taf Bargoed Valley; singing birds at many locations; GOWER: bred at more than 10 sites;

CARMARTHEN: widespread in May and June; party of eight at Llyn Llech Owain included four recently fledged young on 20 June; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at 46 sites; MEIRIONNYDD: noted at 76 sites with confirmed breeding at 15; DENBIGH: breeding confirmed at only six sites; FLINT: confirmed at three sites.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	23 March	Newport Wetlands Reserve		**20 Oct.**	**Redwick/Magor Pill**
E.GLAMORGAN	25 March	Cosmeston Lakes CP		29 Sept.	Thornhill
GOWER	23 March	Cadoxton		13 Oct.	Middleton/Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	1 April	Pembrey Forest, Old Talbot Inn &		18 Sept.	Kidwelly Quay STW
PEMBROKE	24 March	Marloes Mere		13 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	29 March	Llanrhystud		30 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	28 March	Llangorse Lake		21 Aug.	The Cwm
MONTGOMERY	5 April	Llyn Coed-y-Dinas		2 Oct.	Hafren Forest
RADNOR	17 April	Maes y Geidfa		23 Sept.	Llowes
MEIRIONNYDD	21 March	Bronaber		23 Sept.	northeast of county
CAERNARFON	**11 March**	**Capel Curig**		13 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	30 March	Hen Borth, near Cemlyn		11 Oct.	Soldier's Pt
DENBIGH	7 April	Penycae		1 Sept.	Fenn's Moss
FLINT	2 April	Brickfield Pool, Rhyl		21 Sept.	St Asaph

Counts of 10+: GWENT: 12 on Gray Hill on 18 April; 20 at Abertwssg on 22 April and 23 here on 1 June; 13 at Garn lakes on 28 April; 12 on Mynydd Llangatwg on 29 May; 11 at Ebbw Vale on 1 June; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 31 July; 12 at Pant Norton and 12 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 3 Sept.; GOWER: 23 singing along R. Kenfig alderwood to Morfa Tip on 20 April; CARMARTHEN: *c*.20 at Allt Rhyd y Groes on 19 April; PEMBROKE: 23 at Trefon on 6 April; 14 at Marloes Mere on 8 April; 18 at Deer Park on 8 April; 16 at St Davids Head on 17 April; 25 on Skokholm and 20 on Skomer on 29 April; 20 at Pantmaenog on 18 June; 25 on Grassholm on 4 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 17 at Ynyslas on 16 April; 15 at Penderi cliff on 18 April; BRECON: 10-19 singing males at six sites from mid-April to May and at three sites in June; MEIRIONNYDD: 14 at Morfa Harlech on 1 May; CAERNARFON: spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 140 on 18 April, 106 on 20 April and 163 on 1 May; on the mainland, 11 at Coedydd Aber on 28 April; 12 near Bethesda on 16 May; 14 at Llyn Coedty on 14 May; autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 160 on 25 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 14 at Silver Bay on 18 April; 20+ at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 12 May; DENBIGH: 12 at Fenn's Moss on 7 April; 14 in Clocaenog on 22 April; 11 at Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr on 30 April; 16 on Esclusham mountain on 2 May; 17 at Llanarmon-y-lal on 3 June; 11 at Graianrhyd on 6 June; 15 in Clocaenog on 9 June; FLINT: 11 at Gronant on 29 April; 20 at Penycloddiau in May; 23 at Bwlchgwyn on 16 June.

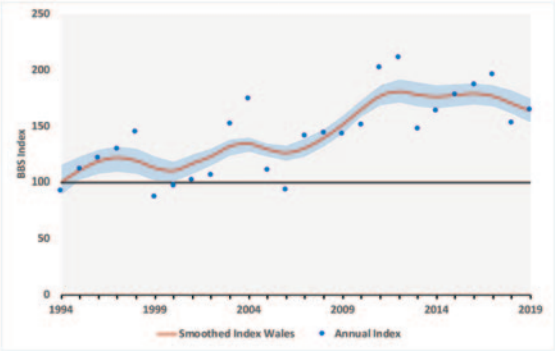
CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* SIFF-SIAFF

Abundant summer visitor (245,000 breeding territories) and on passage. Winters in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**4299**	**5855**
% of BirdTrack lists	**22%**	**25%**

Despite a slight decrease in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in the last seven years, it remains 54% above the baseline.

Breeding Bird Survey: Chiffchaff in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Wintering records where dates were provided. Some records refer to large numbers of birds present over an extended period:

	Jan	*Feb*		*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1	3		2	2
GOWER	2	5			1
E.GLAMORGAN	22	21		49	49
CARMARTHEN	1	3		2	2
PEMBROKE	11	8		7	7
CEREDIGION		4		1	2
BRECON	4	1		1	1
MEIRIONNYDD	1	2			1
CAERNARFON	1	2		1	
ANGLESEY				4	1
DENBIGH	6	2		7	7
FLINT	4	4		6	5

Passage: CAERNARFON: peak of 50 on Bardsey on 25 Sept., 51 on 30 Sept., 41 on 1 Oct. and 40 on 4 Oct.

***P.c. tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff / Siff-siaff Siberia)**
56 records since 2007.
All records were single birds: E.GLAMORGAN: Parc Slip NR from 27 Dec 2018 to 14 Jan.; Kenfig Pool on 17-18 Nov.; Cardiff Bay barrage on 7 Dec.; GOWER: caught at Oxwich on 17 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 27-29 Oct.

IBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus ibericus* SIFF-SIAFF IBERIA
Very rare summer visitor from southwest Europe. BBRC: four previous records.

CAERNARFON: singing male at Penmachno on 16-18 April.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* TELOR GWYRDD
Rare migrant from eastern Europe. WBRC: 32 previous records.

Singles. PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 31 May; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 6 June.

AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola* TELOR DWR

Scarce autumn passage migrant from eastern Europe. WBRC: 82 previous records.

BRECON: one ringed at Llangorse Lake on 30 Aug.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* TELOR HESG

Fairly common passage migrant and summer visitor, numerous at some sites (19,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**935**	**1225**
% of BirdTrack lists	**5%**	**5%**

Spring passage: CEREDIGION: strong passage, including 48 at Ynyslas on 28 April and *c.*100 at Teifi Marshes on 7 May; CAERNARFON: 17 on Bardsey on 1 and 11 May.

Breeding: GWENT: probable or confirmed breeding at five sites; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Kenfig NNR (juveniles seen in early July) and Sker Farm; possibly bred at nine other sites, four on the coastal strip and five inland; GOWER: bred at Oxwich, Pant-y-Sais Fen and Eglwys Nunydd Res.; probably bred at six other locations and possibly at four more; CARMARTHEN: 19 territories at Penclacwydd; bred at Machynys; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at 28 sites; BRECON: heard at four sites; MONTGOMERY: pairs at Cors Dyfi, Dolydd Hafren, Pwll Penarth and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-3 singing males at 15 sites, but breeding confirmed only at Tywyn; CAERNARFON: seven pairs on Bardsey; bred at 4+ sites on the mainland; ANGLESEY: probably bred at Cemlyn and RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: two pairs bred at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos; bred at RSPB Conwy; territories at four other sites; FLINT: bred at Gronant Dunes, with 15 singing birds on 23 May; probably bred at four other sites.

Autumn passage: GOWER: 45 ringed at Oxwich on 27 July; PEMBROKE: 15 on Skomer on 15 July; 11 on Skokholm on 1 Aug.; 20 on Grassholm on 4 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 18 on Bardsey on 1 Aug. and 15 on 2nd.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	2 April	Magor Marsh		15 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	12 April	Kenfig NNR		18 Sept.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	19 April	Heol Cae'r Bont & Margam Moors		**23 Sept.**	**Swansea Vale**
CARMARTHEN	13 April	west of Burry Port		8 Aug.	Commissioner's Bridge
PEMBROKE	**1 April**	**Teifi Marshes**		15 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	**1 April**	**Teifi Marshes**		5 Sept.	Cors Caron
BRECON	11 April	Llangasty, Llangorse Lake		25 Aug.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	19 April	Cors Dyfi			
RADNOR	18 April	Llowes		12 Sept.	Glasbury
MEIRIONNYDD	3 April	Marchynys		20 Aug.	Pont Croesor
CAERNARFON	18 April	Bardsey		13 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	18 April	Malltraeth Cob & Cemlyn		7 Sept.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	10 April	RSPB Conwy		8 Sept.	RSPB Conwy & Morfa Uchaf
FLINT	20 April	Rhuddlan		6 Aug.	Gronant

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum* TELOR CYRS BLYTH

Rare visitor from eastern Europe. WBRC: seven previous records.

Singles. ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 15 June; Porth Eilian on 27 Oct.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* TELOR CYRS

Locally fairly common and increasing summer visitor (11,000 breeding pairs). Uncommon passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	739	913
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Breeding: GWENT: records from 15 sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Cardiff Bay Wetlands and E. Aberthaw; probably bred at Cors Crychydd Reen and Kenfig NNR; singing males at a further 15 sites; GOWER: bred at Oxwich NNR, Brunel Dock, Eglwys Nunydd Res., Margam Moors and Kenfig reedbeds; probably bred at two other locations; present at three more sites; CARMARTHEN: 34 territories at Penclacwydd; 10 singing males at Machynys GC; 10 at Llangennech reedbed; PEMBROKE: present at 11 sites; CEREDIGION: present at five sites; BRECON: six at Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: two pairs bred at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas; present at Dolydd Hafren; MEIRIONNYDD: single territory at nine sites; CAERNARFON: probably bred at six sites; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands and RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: bred at Pensarn and RSPB Conwy (15 on 19 April); probably bred at Towyn and Ash Grove; FLINT: bred at Gronant Dunes (27 singing males), Brickworks Pool at Rhyl, near Prestatyn and at Shotton Pool, where 86 were ringed.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	13 April	Newport Wetlands		**27 Oct.**	**Newport Wetlands**
E.GLAMORGAN	12 April	Cardiff Bay Wetlands		13 Sept.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	14 April	Oxwich		2 Oct.	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	18 April	Ashpits Pond		8 Sept.	Penrhyngwyn Pond, Banc y Lord
PEMBROKE	11 April	Stackpole Court		18 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	19 April	Teifi Marshes		15 Sept.	Teifi Marshes
BRECON	17 April	Llangorse Lake		11 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	20 April	Pwll Penarth		6 Oct.	Llyn Coed-y-Dinas
RADNOR	19 April	Llanbwchllyn		6 Sept.	Llanbwchllyn
MEIRIONNYDD	22 April	Abergwynant		20 Aug.	Pont Croesor
CAERNARFON	19 April	Bardsey		13 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	**7 April**	**Rhydwyn**		1 Sept.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	16 April	RSPB Conwy		10 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	19 April	Connah's Quay NR		25 Aug.	Shotton

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* TELOR GWERNI

Rare visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 28 previous records.

2018. ANGLESEY: singing male at Cemlyn on 27 May.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides* TELOR SAVI

Rare summer migrant from southern Europe. BBRC: eight previous records.

The surprise of the summer was a pair in an Anglesey reedbed that visited an unseen nest with food and remove faecal sacs, the first confirmed breeding record in Wales (see page 209 for a more detailed account).

GWENT: singing male at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 25-30 May; ANGLESEY: pair bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga, present from 14 June to 25 July.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* TROELLWR BACH

Uncommon summer visitor (2000 breeding territories), widespread but thinly distributed in all counties, and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**151**	**289**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**1%**

Breeding/reeling males: GWENT: Magor Marsh (two), Garn Lakes and Newport Wetlands Reserve; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 sites; GOWER: bred at Oxwich; heard at nine other locations; CARMARTHEN: eight sites; PEMBROKE: 29 locations but breeding evidence only at six; CEREDIGION: widely reported; BRECON: five sites; MONTGOMERY: Cors Dyfi and Cringoed, near Llanbrynmair; MEIRIONNYDD: six males at Ynys Saltings; 1-2 at 10-11 other sites; CAERNARFON: three at Llyn Cwm Dulyn; 1-2 at 10 other sites; ANGLESEY: four at Cemlyn on 19-21 April; four at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 7 July; heard at many other sites; DENBIGH: five sites; FLINT: three territories at Gronant, from which at least one pair bred.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	13 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve		24 Aug.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	7 April	Caerau		8 Sept.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	18 April	Landimore Marsh		8 Sept.	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	18 April	Gweunydd Cochion, Pwll		22 June	Kymer's Canal, Kidwelly
PEMBROKE	8 April	Teifi Marshes		26 Aug.	Teifi Marshes
CEREDIGION	10 April	Teifi Marshes		**12 Sept.**	**Ynyslas**
BRECON	17 April	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl		23 Aug.	Llangasty
MONTGOMERY	14 April	Cors Dyfi			
RADNOR	16 April	Nantmel		4 Sept.	Llanelwedd
MEIRIONNYDD	19 April	Fairbourne		12 Aug.	Ynysfor
CAERNARFON	8 April	Bardsey and Llandudno Junction		25 Aug.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	**6 April**	**RSPB Cors Ddyga**		27 July	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	18 April	RSPB Conwy		16 July	Nant-y-belan
FLINT	14 April	St Asaph		13 Aug.	Gronant

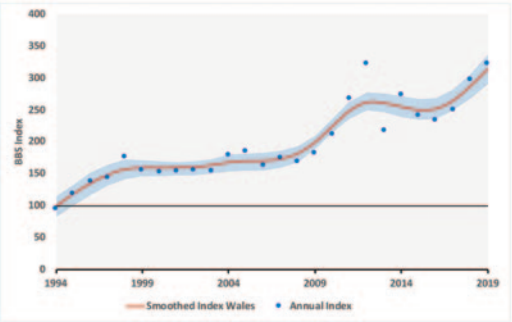
BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* TELOR PENDDU

Abundant summer visitor (265,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Uncommon but widespread winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**2915**	**4027**
% of BirdTrack lists	**15%**	**17%**

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales continues to increase and is now 214% above its 1994 level.

Breeding Bird Survey: Blackcap in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Wintering numbers in each county where provided:

	Jan	*Feb*		*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2	2			13
E.GLAMORGAN	61+			23+	
GOWER	6			2	
CARMARTHEN	3	2			1
PEMBROKE	3	3		4	2
CEREDIGION					1
BRECON	5	1		5	4
RADNOR	10 during the winter periods				
MONTGOMERY	1	1		1	1
MEIRIONNYDD					1
CAERNARFON	8	5		6	4
ANGLESEY				1+	1
DENBIGH	6	8		5	8
FLINT	2	6		2	2

Peak day counts on passage, spring: PEMBROKE: 40 at St Davids Head on 17 April; 40-50 at Martin's Haven on 19 April; CEREDIGION: 30 at Pen Dinas on 23 April; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, peaks of 44 on 18 April, 37 on 19 April and 39 on 1 May.

Autumn: GWENT: 50 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 8 Sept. and 20 here on 20th; E.GLAMORGAN: 25 at Pant Norton on 12 Aug.; 30 at Cardiff Bay Wetlands on 13 Aug.; eight on Flat Holm on 9 Sept.; 10 at Dunraven on 14 Sept.; 16 at Kenfig NNR on 16 Sept.; GOWER: 44 ringed at Oxwich on 8 Sept. and 34 here on 14 Sept.; 20 at Middleton/Mewslade on 13 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: eight at Penclacwydd on 5 Oct.; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, peaks of 14 on 8 Sept. and 20 on 13 Oct.

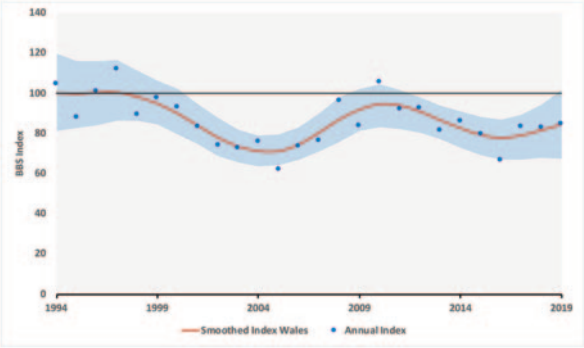
GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* TELOR YR ARDD

Fairly common, widespread summer visitor (39,500 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**433**	**540**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**2%**

The Garden Warbler population does seem somewhat cyclical and the Breeding Bird Survey index is now 16% lower than in 1994, having been relatively stable in the last decade.

Breeding Bird Survey: Garden Warbler in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	13 April	Priory Wood, Bettws Newydd		10 Sept.	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	10 April	Llanharan Marsh		**27 Nov.**	**St Mary's Well Bay**
GOWER	12 April	Graig Afan		28 Oct.	Middleton/Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	**8 April**	**Llangadog**		1 July	Sylen Lakes
PEMBROKE	17 April	Castlemorris		30 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	19 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		8 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	23 April	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl		24 Aug.	The Cwm
MONTGOMERY	18 April	Cors Dyfi			
RADNOR	20 April	Newchurch		20 Oct.	Glasbury
MEIRIONNYDD	22 April	Pont Croesor		17 July	Pennal
CAERNARFON	20 April	Porth Meudwy		24 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	23 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga		10 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	22 April	Llangwm		19 Aug.	Lleweni Watermeadows
FLINT	21 April	Mold		25 Aug.	Shotton

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Curruca curruca* LLWYDFRON FACH

Fairly common, but patchily distributed, summer visitor (6950 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**294**	**439**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**2%**

The breeding trend of Lesser Whitethroat in Wales remains uncertain because of low sample size in the Breeding Bird Survey.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**14 April**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**		22 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	15 April	Merthyr Mawr		8 Sept.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	19 April	Heol Cae'r Bont/Margam Moors		13 Oct.	Middleton/Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	21 April	Kidwelly and Penclacwydd		18 Sept.	near Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	19 April	Southwood Farm		**29 Oct.**	**St Brides**
CEREDIGION	23 April	Pen Dinas, Aberystwyth			
BRECON	29 April	Cnwch Wood/Elan Village		28 July	Llangasty
MONTGOMERY	24 April	Llanymynech MWT reserve		4 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
RADNOR	20 April	Nant Glas		2 Sept.	Llowes
MEIRIONNYDD	5 May	near Bala (only record in 2020)			
CAERNARFON	19 April	Great Orme		30 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	18 April	Cemlyn Bay		27 Oct.	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	20 April	RSPB Conwy		16 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	22 April	Brynford & Connah's Quay NR		20 July	Connah's Quay NR

WESTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER *Curruca hortensis* TELOR LLYGAD ARIAN Y GORLLEWIN

Exceptionally rare vagrant from southern Europe. BBRC: one previous record.

CAERNARFON: 2CY male on Bardsey on 19 May.

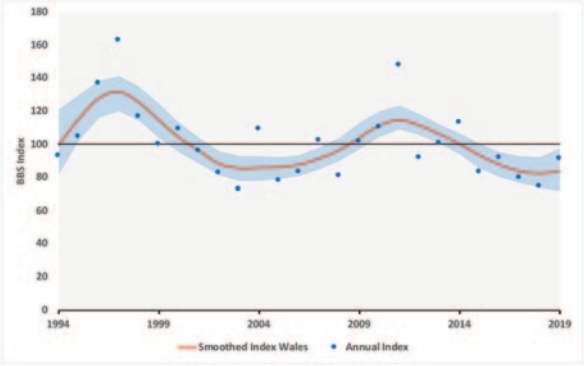
WHITETHROAT *Curruca communis* LLWYDFRON

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor (79,500 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1640	2398
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	10%

The Breeding Bird Survey index in Wales is 28% below its 1994 level, remembering that when BBS began, Whitethroat numbers were already 70% below their early 1960s level. The current decline in Wales is in contrast to other parts of Britain where numbers have increased, reaching a record high in Scotland in 2019.

Breeding Bird Survey: Whitethroat in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**26 March**	**Rogiet CP**		16 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	14 April	Hendre Lake		3 Oct.	Dunraven CP
GOWER	19 April	Pennard & Margam Moors		14 Sept.	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	16 April	Ashpits Pond		17 Sept.	near Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	17 April	Poppit & Lydstep Headland		25 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	17 April	Teifi estuary		3 Oct.	Ynyslas
BRECON	11 April	Llangattock		10 Sept.	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	20 April	Boughrood		9 Sept.	The Begwyns
MEIRIONNYDD	30 April	Lower Tryweryn		24 Aug.	Rhanneg
CAERNARFON	17 April	Bardsey		**6 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	9 April	RSPB Valley Wetlands		21 Sept.	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	12 April	Wrexham		8 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	19 April	Rhydymwyn & Sandycroft		1 Sept.	RSPB Point of Ayr

Notable counts during spring passage: GWENT: 12 at Uskmouth power station on 26 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 23 at Kenfig NNR on 22 April and 46 here on 6 May; CEREDIGION: 10 at Pen Dinas on 23 April; CAERNARFON: peaks on Bardsey of 24 on 1 May and 13 on 2 and 11 May; on the mainland, 11 near Rhoshirwaun on 6 May, 11 at Morfa Nefyn-Porthdinllaen on 11 May and 14 at Aberdaron-Porth Meudwy on 12 May; ANGLESEY: 10 at Cemlyn on 29 April and 12 here on 7 May; 12 at the Alaw est. on 10 May; 19 at Carmel Head on 11 May.

Autumn passage: E.GLAMORGAN: 35 at Pant Norton on 12 Aug.; 23 at Kenfig NNR on 20 Aug.; GOWER: 14 at Middleton/Mewslade on 1 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 17 at Carn Llidi on 4 Aug.; 14 on Skomer on 6 Aug.; CAERNARFON: peak on Bardsey of 18 on 25 Aug.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Curruca undata* TELOR DARTFORD

Rare breeder, mainly in south and west Wales - RBBP: 8-11 pairs in 2018. Occasional elsewhere, usually in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	12	6
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

This species was hit hard by cold, snowy conditions in March 2018 and by local habitat changes, particularly burning of gorse, from which it has not recovered. There were fewer records than for several years, although a pair does seem to cling on in North Wales.

All records: GOWER: probably bred on south Gower coast; present at three other coastal sites; PEMBROKE: seen at Pen Anglas, Plumstone Mountain and at Penbwchdy; CAERNARFON: present at one site in the breeding season.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

Scarce breeding resident and uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	158	184
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: the only records were from Gwent, where eight territories were recorded, in which at least four breeding attempts were made. It is no longer monitored by the RBBP.

Firecrest (Bob Garrett)

Numbers of birds in each county (excluding breeding):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT									2	2		
E.GLAMORGAN	1	1	1						1	2	6	3
GOWER										1	4	2
CARMARTHEN	1									1	1	
PEMBROKE	1								7	12	10	9
CEREDIGION	1	1									1	1
MEIRIONNYDD												4-7
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey					3				3+	3+	1	
Great Orme										1		
elsewhere										5	4	1
ANGLESEY	5				1					1	8	5
DENBIGH											2	1

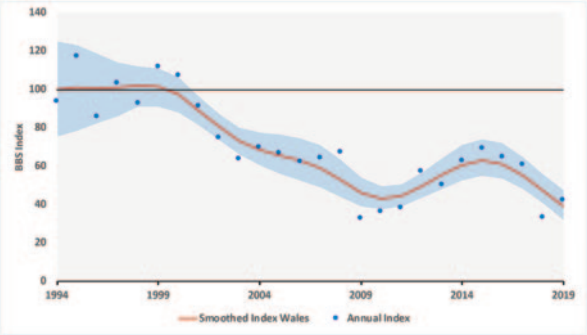
GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* DRYW EURBEN

Fairly common resident (85,500 territories), abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**1963**	**2585**
% of BirdTrack lists	**10%**	**11%**

Despite a slightly better year, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales remains 54% below its 1994 level, whereas the trend is markedly positive in other UK countries. It's interesting that another species primarily of coniferous plantations, Coal Tit, is also declining.

Breeding Bird Survey: Goldcrest in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Counts of 20+: GWENT: *c*.20 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 6 Oct.; BRECON: 19 ringed at Llangorse Lake on 12 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 20 at Coed Parc Mawr on 3 Feb.; 21 on Bardsey on 25 March, 92 on 8 Sept., 135 on 25 Sept. and 82 on 5 Oct.; *c*.40 on the Great Orme on 13 Oct.

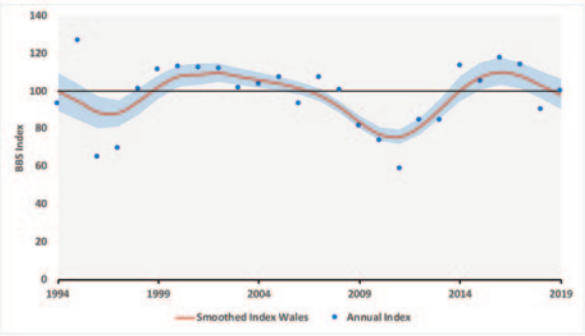
WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* DRYW

Abundant resident up to c.900 metres, and most ubiquitous bird species in Wales (1.3 million territories). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**8619**	**10684**
% of BirdTrack lists	**47%**	**48%**

Breeding: numbers of Wales' most populous wild bird dipped in 2018, probably a consequence of the 'Beast from the East' in early spring, and so it was still in recovery in 2019. The BirdTrack reporting rate increased, but remains below the 56% of complete lists reported in 2016. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is

Breeding Bird Survey: Wren in Wales, 1994 - 2019



9% higher than in 1994.

Notable counts: GWENT: 32 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 30 March; 28 at Abertysswg on 22 April and 26 on the same stretch of river on 1 June; 31 along the R. Usk north of Chain Bridge on 30 June; 40 at the Steelworks in Corporation Road, Newport, on 26 April; E GLAMORGAN: 25 at Kenfig NNR on 20 March; 17 at Twyn-y-giden Farm on 1 April; 17 at Nelson Bog on 19 April; 19 at Penderyn Res. on 28 April; GOWER: 35 along 3.5km of R. Clydach at Bryncoch on 20 April; CARMARTHEN: 112 breeding territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: 23 at Sychpant on 9 May; 28 on Skomer on 31 May; 20 at Lawrenny Wood on 29 June; BRECON: 18 at Forest Lodge on 18 April; 16 at Yr Allt, Sennybridge, on 6 May; 15 in the upper Tawe valley on 7 May; 22 along the R. Usk between Llansantffraed and Pencelli on 7 May; MONTGOMERY: reported in 94% of MWT winter garden bird surveys; CAERNARFON: 108 breeding territories on Bardsey; FLINT: 22 on a BBS at Mold on 21 April; 22 at St Asaph on 22 May; 23 at Connah's Quay on 30 April and 29 here on 23 June.

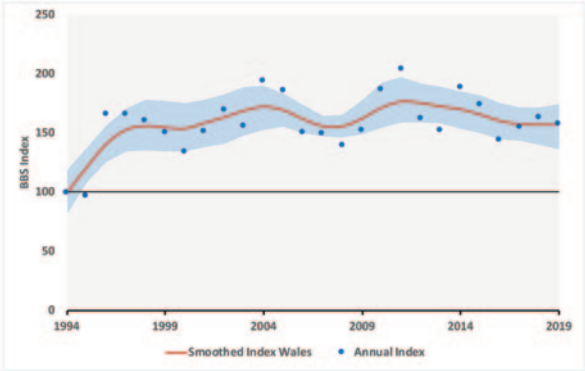
NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* DELOR CNAU

Fairly common and widely distributed resident of mature deciduous and mixed woodland (60,000 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2719	3400
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	15%

Aside from the early years of the Breeding Bird Survey, the index for Wales has remained very stable; it is 30% above its 94% baseline.

Breeding Bird Survey: Nuthatch in Wales, 1994 - 2019



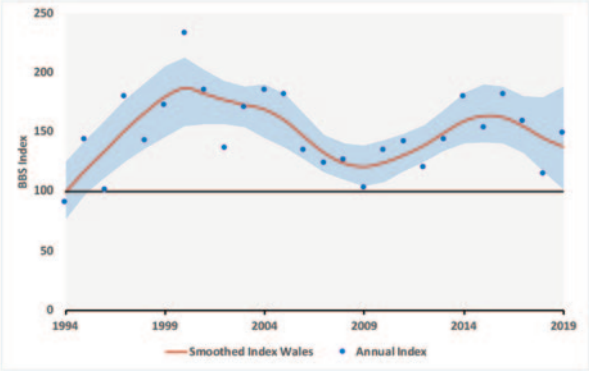
TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* DRINGWR BACH

Fairly common and widespread resident (37,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	962	1138
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

Treecreepers may still be recovering from the cold weather of Feb./March 2018; the annual index was higher

Breeding Bird Survey: Treecreeper in Wales, 1994 - 2019



in 2019 and, overall, the Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index for Wales has increased by 22% since 1994.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Pastor roseus* DRUDWEN WRIDOG

Scarce visitor from southeast Europe, prone to irruptions in some years. WBRC: 134 previous records.

Singles. CAERNARFON: 2CY at Craig-y-don from 2018 to 27 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 1CY at Cemlyn from 9 July into 2020; DENBIGH: adult at Acton Park, Wrexham, on 8 June.

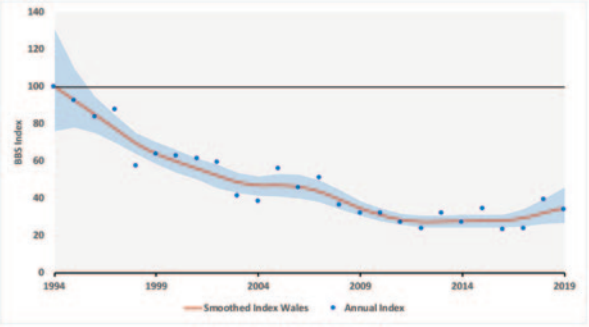
STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* DRUDWEN

Fairly common resident (90,000 breeding pairs). Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor from eastern Europe. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	5403	5951
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	26%

Breeding: is it possible that the long, slow decline of Starlings in Wales has levelled out? Even if it has, there is only one Starling for every three that lived in Wales in the mid-1990s. The 65% decline in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is among the highest of any species.

Breeding Bird Survey: Starling in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large winter flocks (1000+) in first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 1000 at Kenfig NNR on 11 Jan.; GOWER: 1500 at Llanrhidian Marsh on 17 Jan.; 2000 at Port Tennant refuse tip on 16 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Radford Pill on 2 Jan.; BRECON: 6000 in fields at Pentrelloegr, Pontfaen, on 14 Feb., probably from a roost at Twyn-y-wen, MOD Epynt, that numbered 7000+ on 23 Feb.; RADNOR: 20,000+ at Llandegley on 16 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 3000+ at Ceri Ridgeway on 15 Feb.; 1800 at Penbontfawr on 17 March; CAERNARFON: 8000 at Conwy (town) on 20 Jan.; 3000 in the Llanengan area on 3 March; *c.*1200 over Caernarfon on 6 Feb., probably leaving a roost on Anglesey; ANGLESEY: *c.*80,000 roosted at RSPB Cors Ddyga in early Jan.; 8000 near Parys Mountain on 12 Jan.; DENBIGH: 5000 at RSPB Conwy on 10 Jan.,

increasing to 17,500 on 19 Jan.; 3000 at Alwen Res. on 1 March; 2000 at Llyn Brenig on 9 March; FLINT: 1254 on R. Clwyd saltings at Rhyl on 6 Feb.; 1000 at Connah's Quay NR on 11 Feb.

In the second winter period: GWENT: 120,000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 29 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 2000+ at Kenfig NNR on 27 Oct.; 1500 at Lavernock Pt on 29 Oct and 6100 here on 30 Oct.; 3500 at Kenfig NNR on 5 Nov.; 1000 at Rhaslas Pond on 10 Nov.; 1500 at Cardiff Bay on 19 Nov.; 1800 at Llanfabon on 19 Dec.; 2000+ at Kenfig Pool on 28 Dec.; GOWER: 1500 at Landimore saltmarsh on 27 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Marloes Mere on 29 Oct. and 8 Nov.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 3000 roosted at Teifi Marshes on 24 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 1500 at Glandyfi on 22 Oct. but no counts from Aberystwyth pier; BRECON: 10,000+ at Llangorse Lake on 22 Oct.; 10,000 over Beacons Park, Brecon, on 3 Nov.; 100,000 in Tymwar reedbeds, Llangorse, in first week of Nov. and 50,000-70,000 here for the rest of Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1100 at Moel Fferna Quarry on 19 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 1453 passed Bangor on 22 Oct.; 1349 between Morfa Madryn and Llanfairfechan on 12 Oct.; 2000+ at Aber Ogwen on 22 Oct.; *c.*10,000 at Trefriw on 23 Oct.; ANGLESEY: *c.*50,000 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 28 Nov.; 50,000-70,000 roosted east of Llyn Traffwll on 28 Nov.; DENBIGH: 15,000 at RSPB Conwy on 31 Oct.; FLINT: 1750 at Gronant on 11 July and 5200 roosted here on 7 Dec.; 5080 at Rhyl on 30 Oct.; 3000 by the R. Clwyd on 31 Oct.; 4000 at Prestatyn Retail Park on 27 Nov.; 5000 roosted at Connah's Quay NR on 28 Dec.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Uncommon and declining summer visitor to the uplands (444-457 breeding pairs) and passage migrant on coast. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**138**	**165**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: present at Llanbradach in breeding season; two juveniles at Craig-yr-Bwlch, Cynon Valley, on 14 July; BRECON: pair bred in the western Brecon Beacons; family party at Craig Cwm Llwch on 11 Sept.; possibly bred on Craig Cerrig Gleisiad; MEIRIONNYDD: present at 12 sites – in the Rhinogau, Arenig Quarry, Arenig Fawr, Coed y Brenin, Cwmorthen, Aran Benllyn, Erwent Gorge, Llan Festiniog quarry and Cricht; bred at a site on the Migneint; CAERNARFON: 5+ in the Carneddau on 10 April; three near Llyn Eigiau on 16 May, including a male carrying food; two near Bethesda in May; one near Tal-y-llyn on 8 June; up to four in Nant Francon from 14 April to 25 May; present at three sites in the Glyderau from 30 June to 18 Aug.; two at Nant Peris on several dates in April/May and at Craig y Garn, Garndolbenmaen, on 16

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	10 April	Trefil Quarries		22 Oct.	Dingestow Court
E.GLAMORGAN	25 March	Pant-y-Ffaid, Mynydd Bach		**28 Dec.**	**Portobello, Ogmore**
GOWER	**19 March**	**Cwm Ivy**		28 Oct.	Middleton/Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	27 March	Mynydd y garreg		16 Oct.	Morfa Bychan
PEMBROKE	12 April	St Davids Head		30 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	26 March	Pen Dinas		10 Oct.	Cwmystwyth
BRECON	29 March	Graig Cerrig Gleisiad		28 Oct.	Craig Fan Las
RADNOR	25 March	Radnor Forest		6 Nov.	Elan Valley
MONTGOMERY	4 April	Belan near Welshpool			
MEIRIONNYDD	30 March	Arenig Fawr		10 Oct.	Llyn Tanygrisiau
CAERNARFON	25 March	Nant Ffrancon		15 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	30 March	RSPB South Stack		30 Oct.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	10 April	Llantysilio Mountain			
FLINT	26 March	Penycloddiau		16 Dec.	Connah's Quay NR

May; singles east of Drws y Coed on 31 March, Rhyd Ddu on 11 April, Nant Gwynant on 22 April, and on the Llanberis side of Snowdon on 3 June.

Passage (10+ birds): CAERNARFON: 11 on the Great Orme on 18 April.

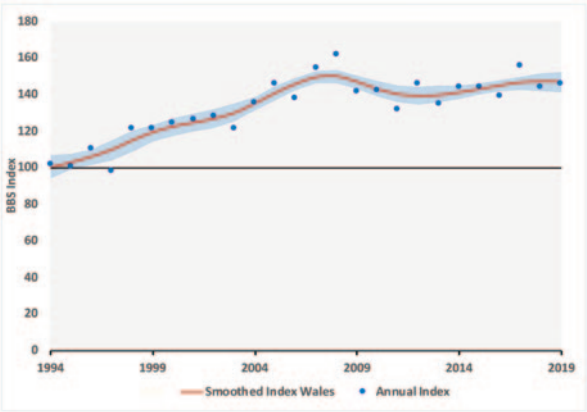
BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* MWYALCHEN

Abundant breeding resident (665,000 pairs), passage migrant and winter visitor from northeast Europe. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**12140**	**14102**
% of BirdTrack lists	**65%**	**62%**

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has remained stable for a decade, 43% above its 1994 level.

Breeding Bird Survey: Blackbird in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large counts (30+): E.GLAMORGAN: 30 at Aberthaw on 9 Feb.; 44 (32 singing males) at Kenfig NNR on 20 March and 31 here on 13 Dec.; GOWER: 31 at Berry Farm on 20 June; CARMARTHEN: 45 breeding territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: 30 at Teifi Marshes on 1 Jan.; 30 at Minwear on 7 June; CAERNARFON: 47 on Bardsey on 21 Oct. and 55 on 29 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 42 at Soldier's Pt on 30 Oct.; DENBIGH: 50 at Gellifor, Rhos, on 9 June; FLINT: 34 at Buckley on 18 May.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* SOCAN EIRA

Winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe in variable numbers; often abundant. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**902**	**784**
% of BirdTrack lists	**4%**	**3%**

Latest and earliest reports in each county:

	Latest	Site		Earliest	Site
GWENT	15 April	King's Wood, Monmouth		12 Oct.	Pwll Du quarry
E.GLAMORGAN	19 April	Gelligaer Common		13 Oct.	Cwm Cadlan NNR
GOWER	22 March	Margam		16 Oct.	Margam Park
CARMARTHEN	11 April	Gweunydd Cochion		22 Oct.	Blaenduad Plantation
PEMBROKE	28 March	Frenni		4 Oct.	Waun Sebon
CEREDIGION	23 March	location not reported		22 Oct.	location not reported
BRECON	7 April	Ystradfellte and Ffordd Fawr		27 Oct.	Mynydd Llangorse
RADNOR	9 March	Elan Valley		**30 Sept.**	**Llanwrthwl**
MONTGOMERY	13 April	Montgomery Town Hill		21 Oct.	Welshpool
MEIRIONNYDD	4 April	Dolorgan, Soar		16 Oct.	Cwm Prysor
CAERNARFON	**20 April**	**Great Orme**		9 Oct.	Bangor
ANGLESEY	13 April	Holyhead		20 Oct.	RSPB South Stack and Silver Bay
DENBIGH	17 April	Llanarmon-yn-lal		2 Oct.	Bryn Eithin, Llanferres
FLINT	16 April	Hendy Ponds		12 Oct.	Bagillt

Few high counts (120+) in the first winter period: CARMARTHEN: 120 at Cilsan Bridge on 31 Jan.; BRECON: 200 in the Marchnant valley, Elan, on 1 Jan.; 300 at Danywern Farm, Llangynidr, on 22 Jan.; DENBIGH: 200 at Tŷ Hen, Clocaenog Forest, on 21 March.

120+ in the second winter period: GWENT: 139 at Portsekwett on 4 Nov.; 125 near Osbaston on 13 Nov.; on five dates at Newport Wetlands Reserve during 23-30 Nov., max. 300+ on 26th; E.GLAMORGAN: 150 at Dunraven on 21 Oct.; 287 at Dare Valley CP on 6 Nov.; 200 at St Mary's Well Bay on 10 Nov.; 200 at Lavernock Pt on 13 Nov.; 250 at Deri, Bargoed, on 30 Dec.; GOWER: *c.*350 over Cwmavon on 28 Nov.; *c.*150 at Mynydd Penhydd on 23 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 120 at Wern-wgan on 29 Oct.; *c.*250 at Pâl y Cwrt on 3 Nov.; 250 at Kidwelly on 10 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 200 over Dinas Mountain on 16 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 540 at Glandyfi on 22 Oct.; 200 at Cwm Einion on 30 Oct.; 200 at Foel Fawr, RSPB Ynys-hir, on 5 Nov.; 300 at Llangwyryfon on 5 Nov. and 500 here on 7 Nov.; BRECON: 300 over The Cwm on 31 Oct.; 200 north over Mynydd Troed and 1000 over Brechfa Common from the Wye Valley on 8 Nov.; 400 southwest over The Cwm on 12 Nov.; 800-1000 south at Llangasty on 12 Nov.; 390 southwest over Buckland Hill towards Llandetty on 15 Nov.; 155 at Llethercynon, Garthbrengy, on 30 Nov.; 220 over Pont Gihirych, Crai, at dusk on 20 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 500 at Adwyddu, Penrhyndeudraeth, on 26 Oct.; 350 at Cwm Cywarch on 2 Nov.; 159 at Moel Fferna quarry on 19 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 300+ at Uwchmynydd on 21 Oct.; *c.*150 at Bangor on 29 Oct.; 500+ at Nant Peris on 29 Oct.; 319 on Bardsey on 21 Oct.; ANGLESEY: *c.*122 passed RSPB South Stack on 21 Oct. and 553 here on 29 Oct.; *c.*350 at the Plantation, Holyhead Mountain, on 29 Oct.; 150 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 8 Nov., 200 on 10 Nov., *c.*150 on 14 Nov., 128 on 17 Nov. and 120 on 24 Nov.; DENBIGH: 140 at Rhewl Swn-y-Nant on 13 Nov.; 200 near Llangollen on 17 Nov.; 200 at Horseshoe Falls on 20 Nov.; FLINT: 500 at Afonwen, on 29 Oct.; 257 at Queensferry, 400 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and 495 at Rhyl on 30 Oct.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* COCH DAN ADAIN

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe; particularly numerous in severe winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**1825**	**1790**
% of BirdTrack lists	**9%**	**7%**

Latest and earliest reports in each county:

	Latest	Site		Earliest	Site
GWENT	31 March	Llanddewi Cwrt		12 Oct.	Pwll du quarry
E.GLAMORGAN	17 April	Silurian Park, Cardiff		10 Oct.	Robertstown
GOWER	10 March	Swansea Vale		14 Oct.	Middleton
CARMARTHEN	21 March	Burry Port		14 Oct.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	17 April	Pen Anglas		7 Oct.	Teifi Marshes
CEREDIGION	28 March	location not reported		**25 Sept.**	**Clettwr**
BRECON	19 March	Pontfaen & Y Byddwn		2 Oct.	Llangasty
RADNOR	3 Feb.	Cwmdu		**25 Sept.**	**Black Hill**
MONTGOMERY				6 Oct.	Llwynderw
MEIRIONNYDD	**5 May**	**Bala**		5 Oct.	multiple locations
CAERNARFON	17 April	Bardsey		4 Oct.	Bardsey & Llandudno Jct
ANGLESEY	28 April	Carmel Head		15 Oct.	Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn
DENBIGH	15 April	RSPB Conwy		29 Sept.	Penycae
FLINT	12 April	Rhuddlan		12 Oct.	Rhuddlan

Large counts (120+) in the first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 390 at Cardiff Riding School on 13 Jan.; BRECON: 300 regularly at WTSWW Y Byddwn in Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 300 in Ceiriog Forest on 8 March; DENBIGH: 145 at Bersham on 1 Jan.; 164 at Lleweni Watermeadows on 28 Jan. and 163 here on 4 Feb.

120+ in the second winter period: GWENT: 180 near Osbaston on 13 Nov. and 130 here on 25th; E.GLAMORGAN: 485 at Cwm Cadlan NNR on 23 Oct.; 300 at Robertstown on 26 Oct.; 200 at Canton on 27 Oct.; 800 at Mynydd Eglwysilan on 29 Oct.; 1200 at Lavernock Pt on 24 Nov.; 200 north of Bonvilston on 29 Dec.; GOWER: 150+ over Margam Burrows on 29 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*800 roosted at Blaenduad Plantation on 22 Oct.; *c.*200 at Talley on 31 Oct.; *c.*350 at Kidwelly on 10 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 200 at Llanychaer on 29 Oct. and 14 Nov.; 200 at Carew on 9 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 1660 at Glandyfi on 22 Oct.; BRECON: 500 left a roost at Y Byddwn, Groesffordd, on 29 Oct.; 147 ringed at Llangasty between 14 Oct and 19 Nov.; 3000-4000 south over Llangorse at dusk on 12 Nov.; 600 over Priory Groves, Brecon, on 20 Nov.; RADNOR: 200 at Llandewi on 7 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1700 over Rhiw Goch on 26 Oct.; 150 at Cynwyd on 31 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 120 passed Bangor on 5 Oct. and 2713 here on 21 Oct.; *c.*300 near Llandygai Road, Bangor, on 29 Oct.; 200+ at St Tudno's, Great Orme, on 22 Oct.; *c.* 350 at Trefriw on 23 Oct.; 158 on Bardsey on 20 Oct. and 244 here on 21 Oct.; DENBIGH: 400 at Penycae on 4 Oct.; 130 at Pentrefoelas on 23 Oct.; 200 in Conwy on 22 Oct.; 271 in Lleweni Watermeadows on 28 Oct.; 200 at Horseshoe Falls and at Wrexham on 20 Nov.; FLINT: 124 at Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn, on 29 Oct.; flocks of 190 at Shotwick, 207 at Rhyl, 350 at Bagillt, and 2934 in seven flocks at Queensferry on 30 Oct.

In E.GLAMORGAN a bird of the Icelandic race, *T.i. coburni,* "characterised by its swarthy plumage and more densely streaked underparts compared with the nominate race", was photographed at Ogmore Castle on 1 Feb., the first confirmed record for the county.

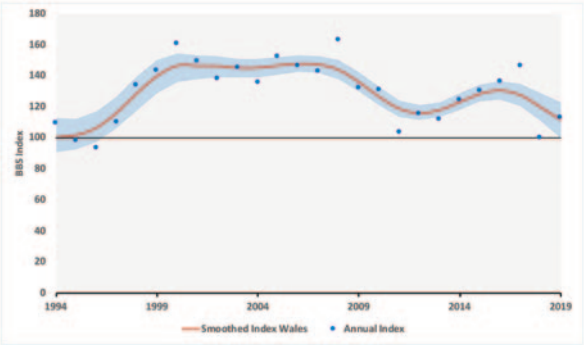
SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* BRONFRAITH

Fairly common and widespread resident (160,000 breeding territories), winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	4623	5388
% of BirdTrack lists	24%	24%

The last couple of years seem not to have been kind to Song Thrushes, and caused a change in trend from a slow increase to a, hopefully temporary, decline. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales remains 18% above its 1994 baseline, an overall trend not greatly different to the rest of the UK.

Breeding Bird Survey: Song Thrush in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Counts of 30+: E.GLAMORGAN: 30 at Canton on 30 Sept.

In MONTGOMERY, reported from 62% of MWT winter garden surveys.

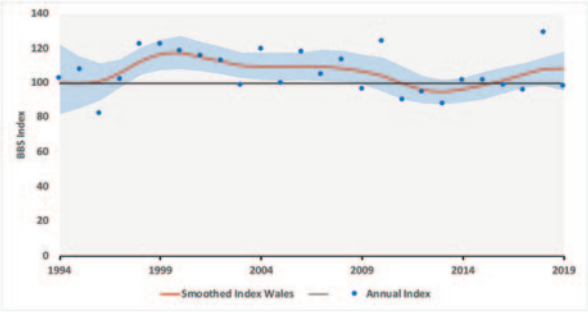
MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* BRYCH COED

Fairly common resident (26,000 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2603	2790
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	12%

The smoothed index in the Breeding Bird Survey for Wales is among the most stable for any species monitored, 8% above its 1994 level. That is in sharp contrast to England, where the index has been declining since 2000 and is now 44% below its baseline.

Breeding Bird Survey: Mistle Thrush in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large flocks (20+): GOWER: 24 at Weobley Castle on 4 Sept.; 20 at Afan Forest Park on 25 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 25 at Pembrey Country Park on 14 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 20 at Bangor on 15 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 22 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 3 Aug.; DENBIGH: 21 at Pentrefoelas on 24 Sept.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Uncommon and declining summer visitor (5700 breeding territories). Locally common passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	326	382
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: bred at six sites – Llantrisant Forest, Lanlay Meadows (three pairs), Gilfach near Llangynwyd, Deri at Bargoed, Castle-upon-Alun and Garnwen-Maesteg; probably bred at Blackmill and Nant Llwynog in Bedlinog; GOWER: bred at Aberdulais and present at seven other sites; CARMARTHEN: bred at Llansadwrn; PEMBROKE: reported from 36 locations with evidence of breeding at five; CEREDIGION: reported from six localities, including a breeding pair in the centre of Tregaron, two pairs at Cross Inn forest and a pair at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: 42 occupied territories; two nests at The Cwm, in Hay Bridge woods, at Fennifach and on river bridges at Pont Troedyrharn in Crai and Pont Newydd in Trecastle; bred at Rhydywernen in Brecon, Llangorse and Brecon Beacons NP Mountain Centre, Libanus; RADNOR: bred

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	11 May	Clydach		14 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	3 May	Blackmill		**17 Oct.**	**Cosmeston Lakes CP**
GOWER	12 May	Melicourt Brook		21 Sept.	Bishopston valley
CARMARTHEN	23 May	Dinefwr Castle		14 Sept.	Kidwelly, Pembrey CP
PEMBROKE	3 May	Llanwnda		24 Sept.	Skokholm
BRECON	**22 April**	**Craig Llyn, Llanwrthwl**		21 Sept.	The Cwm
RADNOR	4 May	Knighton		18 Sept.	Llandegley
MONTGOMERY	3 May	Guilsfield		26 Aug.	location not reported
MEIRIONNYDD	1 May	Ynys		30 Aug.	Ynys
CAERNARFON	1 May	Bardsey		22 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	11 May	RSPB South Stack		24 Sept.	Soldier's Pt
DENBIGH	13 May	Fenn's Moss		1 Sept.	Fenn's Moss
FLINT	19 May	Penycloddiau		13 July	St Asaph

at Bache Hill; MONTGOMERY: present at 11 sites, including a pair at Llandyssil that raised two broods; MEIRIONNYDD: noted at 17 sites with probable breeding at three and confirmed at six; CAERNARFON: bred at Betws y Coed; reported at 11 other locations; DENBIGH: bred at Graianrhyd, Lleweni Watermeadows, Bodnant Gardens, Eglwyseg and St Garmon's Well, Llandegla; possibly bred at five other sites; FLINT: four territories in Coed Llangwyfan and Nant Glyn, Penycloddiau.

Notable passage counts: CAERNARFON: peaks of 37 on Bardsey on 20 May and 25 on 2 June; in the autumn a peak of only 11 on Bardsey on 25 Aug.; ANGLESEY: seven at Carmel Head on 2 June.

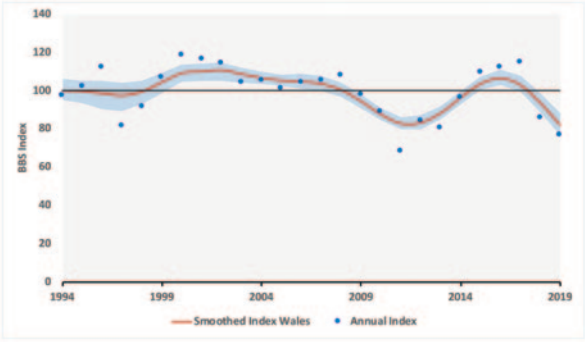
ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* ROBIN GOCH

Abundant and widespread resident (905,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	10973	13083
% of BirdTrack lists	59%	58%

We assumed that the fall in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2018 was a result of the icy conditions in March, immediately prior to the breeding season. But a second consecutive poor year has brought the smoothed index down to its lowest point, 18% below the 1994 baseline.

Breeding Bird Survey: Robin in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large counts (20+): E.GLAMORGAN: 28 (17 singing males) at Kenfig NNR on 20 March; 26 at St Fagans on 24 Aug.; GOWER: 28 in three adjoining 1km squares in Penllergaer valley on 5 March; 26 along 3.5km of R. Clydach at Bryncoch on 20 April; CARMARTHEN: 35 breeding territories at Penclacwydd; BRECON: 27 in two 1-km squares SN9224 and SN9225 in the lower Senni valley on 26 Feb.; 22 sang in Elan village and Cnwch Wood on 6 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 36 at Broadwater on 22 Sept.; CAERNARFON: *c.*30 on Great Orme on 13 Oct.; peak passage on Bardsey was 42 on 25 Sept., 43 on 30 Sept. and 53 on 1 Oct.; FLINT: 32 at Old Smithy, Blaenau, on 29 March.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* GWYBEDOG BRONGOCH

Scarce visitor, usually in autumn, from Scandinavia and eastern Europe. WBRC: 172 previous records.

Singles: PEMBROKE: 1CY on Skokholm on 14 Oct. and a different individual on 22nd; CAERNARFON: adult on Bardsey on 2 Nov.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* GWYBEDOG BRITH

Locally fairly common but declining summer visitor in most mainland counties (15,000-19,000 breeding territories). Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	374	458
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Heavy rain in mid-June caused numerous failures with dead adults found in boxes as well as many dead chicks.

Selected breeding records: GWENT: one nest at Penallt, failed at egg stage; E.GLAMORGAN: pair at Blackmill on 10 May and three males here on 14 May; also at Pant-yr-Awel, Cwm Cadlan NNR, Taf Bargoed valley and Nant Melyn Woods; CARMARTHEN: bred at Halfway, Llandovery and Cynghordy; six pairs nested in boxes at Abbey Wood, Whitland; *c.*20 at Allt Rhyd y Groes and *c.*10 pairs at Dinas on 29 April; PEMBROKE: noted in 11 woods; CEREDIGION: seven singing males at Denmark Farm; BRECON: single pairs at new nest-boxes at Cwm Oergwm, WTSWW Y Byddwn reserve and Hay Bridge woods; 2-3 singing males in Coed Carno, Libanus; 13 nest-boxes occupied in Cnwch Wood; 17 singing males in the west of the county, of which four were at Abertreweryn and four in the Ysgirfechan Farm area; in nest-boxes (in addition to those in table), nine pairs at Craig Llyn, Llanwrthwl, four on Cathedine Common and five pairs by R. Twrch at Brynhenllys; RADNOR: bred at Dulas in Teme Valley; MONTGOMERY: 110 nest attempts in boxes at Lake Vyrnwy but low success due to torrential rains in June; 1554 (1425 nestlings) were ringed in the county; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded at 45 sites; two occupied nest-boxes at Blaen Cwm Uchaf, Maestron; 19 occupied nest-boxes at Cwm Cywarch on 12 May; CAERNARFON: reported from many woodlands including 35 at Rowen on 6 May; 12 at Coedty Res. on 11 May and nine in Nant Ffrancon on 15 May; DENBIGH: bred at 13 sites, with 106 pulli ringed at Glyn Arthur, 22 at Llanarmon-yn-lal, 45 near Llanfair Talhaiarn, 44 at Coed Nantddu, 19 at Ddol-hir and six at Pentre Llanrhaeadr; FLINT: nest-box occupied at Sychdyn on 5 May; five territories at Penycloddiau with at least two nests in tree holes on 9

Nest productivity, assessed by 162 attempts in nest-boxes, was 3.96 fledged young/nest, lower than the average in 2018 (*cf*. 4.74 fledged young/nest).

County, site	Pairs	Young fledged	Fledged young/nest	Fledged young/nest
GOWER, Cwm Clydach	28	101	3.6	3.0
CARMARTHEN, Halfway,			6.8*	6.44
CARMARTHEN, Cynghordy			6.0*	
CEREDIGION, RSPB Ynys-hir	47	90	1.9	3.4
BRECON, Coed Dyrysiog	11	56	5.1	
BRECON, Drostre Wood	3	19	6.3	
BRECON, Trawsnant (300m asl)	11	67	6.1	
MONTGOMERY, RSPB Lake Vyrnwy	110	Data not provided		
MEIRIONNYDD, Coed Crafnant	58	289	5.0	6.0
CAERNARFON, Coedydd Aber	4	20	5.0	

*figure cited is average per successful nest.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	19 April	Deri Fach		26 Aug.	Peterstone Sluice Farm
E.GLAMORGAN	17 April	Kenfig NNR		26 Aug.	Summerhouse Pt
GOWER				24 Aug.	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	10 April	Ffarmers		28 June	Eithin Tewion, Cilycwm
PEMBROKE	18 April	Allt Pengegin Isaf		**2 Oct.**	**Ramsey**
CEREDIGION	**26 March**	**Llanfair Clydogau**			
BRECON	9 April	The Cwm & Newbridge-on-Wye		26 July	The Cwm
RADNOR	7 April	Elan Valley		24 Aug.	Monaughty
MONTGOMERY	11 April	Llwynderw			
MEIRIONNYDD	3 April	Gwaith Powdwr		23 Aug.	Coed Lletywalter, Llanbedr
CAERNARFON	14 April	Fachwen & Llanbedr-y-cennin		30 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY				24 Sept.	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	12 April	Llangollen		3 Aug.	Hafod
FLINT	19 April	Hendre		27 June	Pontybodkin

June; two broods ringed at Hendre in late May.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* TINGOCH DU

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Occasional breeder – RBBP: 0-3 pairs in 2018. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	251	314
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season: most of these were probably late or early migrants. PEMBROKE: two at Trefrane on 3-6 May; Skokholm on 10 June; BRECON: male singing in southeast Beacons on 16 June but was not seen/heard again; CEREDIGION: male at Cwmystwyth on 18 Aug.; RADNOR: Elan Valley on 3 July; MONTGOMERY: one at Lake Vyrnwy on 1 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Cable Bay on 8 July.

First winter period/spring passage, single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from Dec. 2018 to 24 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY at Trecco Bay, Porthcawl, from 6 Jan. to 12 Feb.; female at Dunraven/Southerndown on 10 Jan.; female or immature on Flat Holm on 13 and 20 Feb.; in a garden bird bath at Llantwit Major on 31 March; Alps Farm, Caerau, on 14 April; GOWER: male at Little Tor, Nicholaston Burrows, on 4 Jan.; Tear's Pt on 23 Feb.; Rhossili/Fall Bay on 10-11 March; PEMBROKE: Broad Haven on 23 Jan.; Gann est. on 3 Feb.; St Brides from 14 Jan. to 24 March; Pembroke Dock on 28 Jan.; Fishguard on 24 Feb.; three on Skokholm on 23 March; Deer Park on 30 March; Marloes on 19 April; Skomer on 28 April; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 1 Jan.; male at Lampeter on 3 Feb.; male at the Leri est. on 15 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: Carno on 11 April; Middletown on 14 April; ANGLESEY: Porth Dafarch on four dates in Jan.; RSPB South Stack on four consecutive dates at the end of Jan. and 1 Feb., 23 March and 18 April; Holyhead on 1-18 Feb.; Octel, Amlwch, on 23 March; DENBIGH: Kinmel Bay between 6 Jan. and 17 Feb. but more than one reported on 20 Jan.

Autumn passage/second winter period: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 16 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: Penywaun, Aberdare, on 29 Oct.; Trecco Bay, Porthcawl, on 4 Nov.; Cardiff Bay on 5-6 Nov.; Southerndown on 16 Nov.; E. and W. Aberthaw (possibly the same bird) on 18 Nov.; Sker Pt on 18 Nov.; female or 1CY at Penarth Marina from 18 Dec. to end of year; GOWER: Aberavon promenade in autumn; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 29 Oct.; Pendine on 2-3 Nov.; Burry Port Harbour on 17 Dec.; Copperhouse, Llanelli, on 31 Dec.; PEMBROKE: St Davids on 22 Oct.; three on Ramsey on 24 Oct.; Dale on 26 Oct.; Crymych on 27 Oct.; two on Skomer from 27 Oct.; Marloes and Dinas Head on 28 Oct.; two at Broad Haven on 29 Oct.; St Davids, Skokholm and Dale on 3 Nov.; St Davids GC on 6 Nov.; Manorbier on 6 Nov.; Skokholm on 7 Nov.; Solva and Pembroke Mill Ponds on 13 Nov.; Rhosson Farm, St Davids on 3 Dec.; Fishguard Harbour on 22 Dec.; Poppit on 20-31 Dec.; Cwm yr Eglwys on 23 Dec.; St Brides on 25-31 Dec.; two at Ceibwr on 29 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Llangrannog on 18 Oct.; two female/1CY at Aberystwyth on 15 and 18 Nov., one here on 17, 27 and 28 Nov. and up to two (male and female/1CY) on 21-29 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: Llansantffraid on 1 Sept.; Carno on 4 Nov.; CAERNARFON: females on Bardsey on 23-24 March and 29 March; ANGLESEY: Penmon Pt on 10 Nov.; Soldier's Pt on 19 Nov.

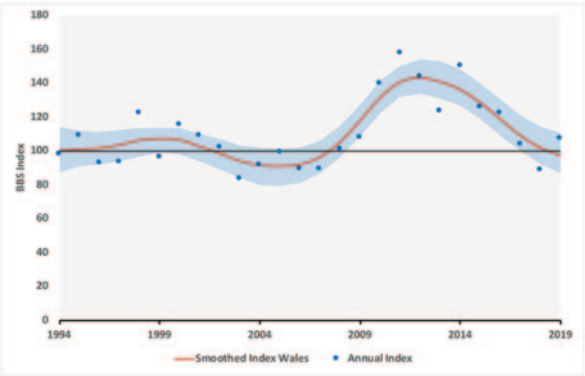
REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* TINGOCH

Fairly common summer visitor in deciduous woodland and upland ffridd (50,500 breeding pairs), but scarce in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire. Passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	618	721
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has dropped 32% since 2012 and fallen below its baseline for the first time since 2002-07.

Breeding Bird Survey: Redstart in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	8 April	Magor Marsh & Newport Wetlands		14 Sept.	near Redwick
E.GLAMORGAN	7 April	Bargoed		**17 Oct.**	**Cosmeston Lakes CP**
GOWER	**6 April**	**Loughor Bridge**		26 Aug.	Mumbles Hill
CARMARTHEN	7 April	Pentre felin		20 Aug.	Kymer's Canal/Kidwelly Marsh
PEMBROKE	**6 April**	**St Davids Head**		12 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	8 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		17 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	11 April	Llangasty		10 Sept.	Twyn Cil-rhew, Beacons
RADNOR	**6 April**	**Llanbwchllyn**		22 Sept.	Glasbury
MONTGOMERY	8 April	Welshpool			
MEIRIONNYDD	7 April	Lower Tryweryn		24 Aug.	Rhanneg & Cwm Cywarch
CAERNARFON	14 April	Bangor & Great Orme		13 Aug.	Coedydd Aber
ANGLESEY	20 April	Carmel Head			
DENBIGH	16 April	Trevor Uchaf		26 Aug.	Moel Arthur
FLINT	7 April	Connah's Quay NR		9 Aug.	Penycloddiau

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* CREC YR EITHIN

Localised and declining summer visitor, breeding in upland areas (2825 pairs in 2013). Wales Red listed.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**19 April**	**Mynydd Maen**		20 Oct.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	29 April	Mynydd Maerdy, Cwmparc		28 Oct.	Sker Pt
GOWER	10 May	Margam Moors		14 Sept.	Tankeylake Moor
CARMARTHEN	22 April	Llyn Brianne		20 Oct.	Kymer's Canal/Kidwelly Marsh
PEMBROKE	7 May	Marloes Mere		**8 Nov.**	**Dale Airfield**
CEREDIGION	28 April	Ynyslas		25 Sept.	Clettwr
BRECON	28 April	R. Dulas, MOD Epynt		1 Oct.	Llangorse
RADNOR	20 April	Elan Valley		11 Oct.	The Begwyns
MONTGOMERY				1 Sept.	Forge, near Machynlleth
MEIRIONNYDD	**19 April**	**Rhinog Fawr**		24 Aug.	Rhanneg
CAERNARFON	20 April	Great Orme		21 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	20 April	Alaw estuary		5 Sept.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	21 April	Fenn's Moss		13 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	3 May	Connah's Quay NR		30 Aug.	Connah's Quay NR

Whinchat (Tony Pope)

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	250	261
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: two pairs with juveniles at Cwmparc; four at Taf Bargoed, two singing males at Mynydd Bach, Maesteg, singles at Penywaun and Cwm Cadlan NNR; GOWER: two pairs probably bred at Cwm Nant y Fedw; CARMARTHEN: two pairs at Mynydd Pencarreg; PEMBROKE: one site occupied, at Brynberian; BRECON: heard at 16 sites; bred at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad and Llangynidr Res.; six at Trawsnant and several in the Marchnant valley in late June were probably family parties; RADNOR: three pairs in Elan Valley; bred at Y Glog Fawr, Elan, Great Rhos and Claerwen Farm in Dwynant valley; MONTGOMERY: records from Lake Vyrnwy and two other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: very poor year, six pairs bred, seven pairs probably bred and five pairs possibly bred; CAERNARFON: two pairs in Llyn Eigiau area on 16 May; present at six other locations; DENBIGH: bred at Llyn Aled Isaf and Hafod Elwy NNR on Mynydd Hiraethog, Llantysilio Mountain, Moel Famau (three pairs) and Trawsnant on the Migneint; FLINT: two territories at Penycloddiau.

Notable passage (10+ birds): GOWER: 10 at Margam Moors on 1 Sept.

STONECHAT *Saxicola rubicola* CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

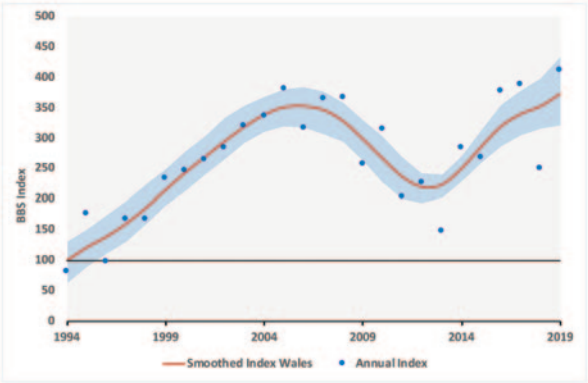
Fairly common resident (12,082 pairs in 2013) in uplands and coastal heath, though numbers vary as a result of winter and spring weather. More widespread in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2358	3684
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	15%

Breeding: it did not take long for Stonechats to recover from the sharp drop in numbers in 2018, presumed to have been caused by the 'Beast from the East'. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new high in 2019, 191% above the 1994 baseline.

Spring passage: max. counts where provided: E.GLAMORGAN: 24 at Kenfig NNR on 21 March; PEMBROKE: 11 between St Justinians and Rhosson on 26 March; 13 at Broad Haven on 30 March.

Breeding Bird Survey: Stonechat in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Autumn passage: GWENT: 17 at Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth) on 16 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 at Kenfig NNR on 2 Aug.; 11 in Porthcawl on 21 Oct.; 7-9 at five other sites in Aug.-Nov.; PEMBROKE: 12 at Lydstep Headland on 2 July; 14 on Plumstone Mountain on 14 July; 13 on Ramsey on 28 July; 15 at Nine Wells on 3 Aug.; 15 at Bosherston on 23 Aug.; 15 at Martin's Haven on 25 Aug.; 13 on Mynydd Carningli on 4 Sept.; 30 between Abereiddi and Porthgain on 17 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 25 at Ynyslas on 2 Aug. and 12 here on 30 Aug.; 14 at Llanrhystud on 20 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 13 on Bardsey on 26 Aug. and 32 on 27th.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* TINWEN Y GARN

Fairly common summer visitor, chiefly around upland pasture (13,759 breeding pairs). Abundant passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

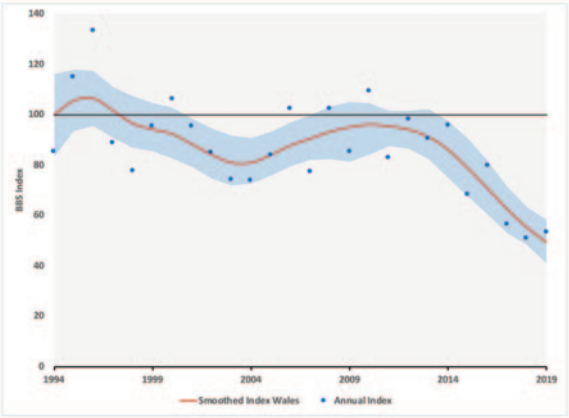
	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	**1295**	**1589**
% of BirdTrack lists	**5%**	**6%**

As we have been reporting for a few years, this is a bird in trouble, and not only in Wales. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell to another new low, 48% below its 1994 level, and any further fall will make it a candidate for the Red List of conservation concern in Wales at the next assessment. In Breconshire, it was a better season than in recent years with more than 60 territories reported, and fledged young at 13 sites. On Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, there were 23 pairs, five more than in 2018, which fledged at least 36 young (1.57 young/pair). No confirmed breeding was reported in Denbighshire, however.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	1 March	Gilwern Hill		29 Oct.	Magor Pill
E.GLAMORGAN	11 March	Sker Pt		28 Oct.	Dunraven
GOWER	17 March	Neath estuary & Glyncorrwg		15 Oct.	Weobley
CARMARTHEN	**28 Feb.**	**Pembrey Harbour**		24 Oct.	Machynys
PEMBROKE	15 March	Pen Caer		27 Oct.	Marloes Mere
CEREDIGION	1 March	RSPB Ynys-hir		**8 Nov.**	**Cwm Tydu**
BRECON	11 March	Mynydd Llangatwg		2 Oct.	Fan Frynych
RADNOR	19 March	The Begwyns		28 Oct.	The Begwyns
MONTGOMERY	16 April	Y Wylfa, Machynlleth		1 Sept.	Forge, near Machynlleth
MEIRIONNYDD	5 March	south of Tywyn		5 Sept.	Borthwnog
CAERNARFON	1 March	Aberdaron		19 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	11 March	Octel, Amlwch		6 Oct.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	19 March	Kinmel Bay		26 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	21 March	Cilcain		8 Oct.	Connah's Quay NR

Breeding Bird Survey: Wheatear in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Spring passage counts (10+): GWENT: 10 at Pwll du on 6 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Dare Valley CP on 30 March; 26 at Sker Pt on 18 April; CARMARTHEN: 12 on Mynydd Du on 7 April; PEMBROKE: 11 in Deer Park on 25 March; 10 at Penllechwen on 31 March; 12 on Ramsey on 7 April; 30 on St Davids Head on 13 April and 22 here on 17 April; 20 at Trefin on 13 and 22 April; 11 on Skomer on 21 April; CEREDIGION: 12 at Aberystwyth on 14 April; 25 at Ynyslas on 16 April and 35 here on 17 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 on Penllyn fields, Tywyn, on 22 April; CAERNARFON: 50 in Nant Ffrancon on 3 April; 220+ on Great Orme on 18 April; peak of 71 on Bardsey on 18 April; ANGLESEY: peak counts of 18 at Cemlyn on 8 April, 23 here on 14 April and 19 on 18 April; 16 at RSPB South Stack on 1 May; 13 at the Alaw est. on 10 May; DENBIGH: 14 at Aled Isaf Res. on 19 April; 11 at Gwynfryn on 23 April; FLINT: 13 at Connah's Quay NR on 19 April and 11 here on 21 April.

Autumn passage counts (10+): GWENT: 15 at Redwick on 16 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Sker Pt on 21 Sept., 16 on 25th and 21 on 26th; PEMBROKE: 19 on Skokholm on 1 Aug. and 16 on 2 Aug.; 52 on Ramsey on 28 July; 12 at Dale Airfield on 24 Sept.; 12 at Porthgain on 28 Sept.; 12 at Swanlake on 5 Sept.; CAERNARFON: peak of 43 on Bardsey on 14 Aug.

***O.o. leucorhoa* (Greenland Wheatear / Tinwen y Garn yr Ynys Las)**
Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race (singles unless otherwise stated): E.GLAMORGAN: Craig-y-Llyn on 22 April; GOWER: Crymlyn Burrows on 22 April; Troed y Rhiw/Cwm Kenfig on 11 May; PEMBROKE: two at Marloes Mere on 18 April; CEREDIGION: many on passage at Ynyslas may have been Greenland birds: 16 on 28 April, 30 on 1 May, 16 on 2 May, 12 on 9 May and 16 on 10 May; nine at Llanrhystud on 30 April and four here on 1 May; BRECON: four on Trallong Common on 18 April; five above Ysgirfechan Farm, Merthyr Cynog, on 19 April; DENBIGH: three at RSPB Conwy on 19 April, singles here on 22 April and 15 June; five at Llyn Aled Res. on 11 May; FLINT: three at Connah's Quay NR on 29 April, two here on 3 May and three on 7 May; up to six at Gronant on 30 April.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* TINWEN FELYNLLWYD
Very rare visitor from west and central Asia. BBRC: six previous records.

CAERNARFON: 1CY on Bardsey on 10-16 Sept.

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti* TINWEN Y DIFFEITHWCH
Very rare visitor from North Africa and the Middle East. BBRC: seven previous records.

CAERNARFON: Pen y cil, Aberdaron, on 6 Nov.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* BRONWEN Y DWR

Fairly common resident of fast flowing streams, particularly in hill areas (1150-4050 breeding pairs). In winter, upland birds move downstream. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	773	920
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Selected breeding season records: GWENT: 23 nests on lower R. Wye tributaries but poor success with only 56 pulli ringed (2.43 young/nest); E.GLAMORGAN: bred on R. Taff between Radyr weir and Llandaff; probably bred at Forest Farm, Ogmore, Bridgend and Rhymney (four sites), R. Cynffig, Parc Taf Bargoed and Blackmill; possibly bred at 13 other sites; GOWER: bred at three sites on R. Clydach, five sites on R. Neath, on R. Afan and three sites on the R. Ffyddwyllt; many possible breeding pairs elsewhere; CARMARTHEN: 16 nests in the east, of which five failed, 44 young fledged from the other 11 (2.75 young/nest); at seven regular sites no eggs were laid; PEMBROKE: seen at 19 locations but breeding proven at only two; BRECON: seen at 27 sites, breeding confirmed at 14; RADNOR: bred at Estyn, Newbridge-on Wye and Tycwtta; MEIRIONNYDD: bred on R. Arran in Dolgellau, Pont Maentwrog, Cwm Nantcol and Lower Tryweryn; probably bred at four other sites and possibly at 15; CAERNARFON: recorded on 16 watercourses, including four territories on R. Ogwen between A55 and Halfway Bridge on the A5; bred at Coedydd Aber; ANGLESEY: 1-3 on R. Cefni at Llangefni from 12 Feb. to 19 May, including pair displaying on 18 March; DENBIGH: pairs bred at Bodnant, Llanerch-yr-Aur and Wrexham; probably/possibly bred at a further 12 sites; FLINT: bred at St Asaph.

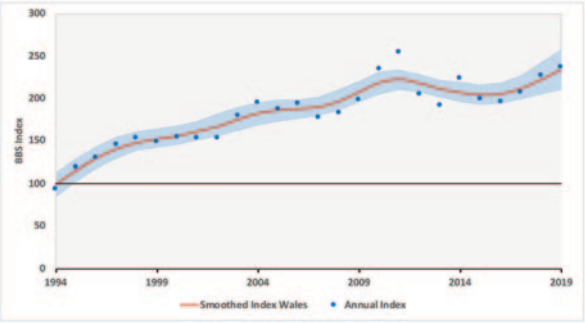
HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* ADERYN Y TO

Abundant and widespread resident (800,000 breeding pairs). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	7148	7807
% of BirdTrack lists	38%	35%

Breeding: after a few years of little change, the Breeding Bird Survey index shows signs of a renewed upswing, taking the smoothed trend to match its 2011 high. The 92% increase since 1994 is in stark contrast to a 10% decline in England over the same period; the difference may well be the greater proportion of the English population that live in urban habitats, where House Sparrows are known to be struggling.

Breeding Bird Survey: House Sparrow in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large counts (70+) include: GWENT: 100 at Llandenny on 16 July; 84 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 6 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 86 at Creigiau on 30 May; 80 at Gileston on 24 Aug.; 160 at Rivers House, St Mellons, on 27 Aug.; 70 at Lavernock Pt on 8 Sept.; GOWER: *c.*90 at Longland's playing fields, Margam, on 24 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 112 at Halfway on 23 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 85 at The Rhos, Slebech, on 30 July; 200 at Marloes Mere on 21 Aug.; BRECON: 180 at Warren Road, Brecon, with another 40 nearby on 17 Aug.; 90 at Pennorth on 24 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 100+ at Foryd on 10 July; 70 at Hafod Lane, Bangor, in Sept.; ANGLESEY: 75 at Llanddyfan on 7 Jan.; DENBIGH: 100 in Towyn on 7-8 Jan., increasing to 130 on 22nd; FLINT: 85 at Buckley on 18 May.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* GOLFAN MYNYDD

Declining and localised resident, with a patchy distribution (200-325 breeding pairs). Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	45	45
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The record from Pembrokeshire was the first for a couple of years, and a pair potentially bred in Carmarthenshire.

All records: CARMARTHEN: six at Ro-Fawr; PEMBROKE: one on Ramsey in April; BRECON: seven in Lower Chapel on 30 Nov.; RADNOR: slow increase to north and west: two at Hendregenny on 23 March; two at Llanfair Waterdine on 22 April; one at Gorsbank on 10 Aug.; 35 at New Radnor in Sept.; MONTGOMERY: one in Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain on 16 Feb.; four at Wern, near Arddleen, on 6-8 March; two at Sarn on 31 Dec.; CAERNARFON: one over Bangor Mountain on 22 Oct.; ANGLESEY: at Cemlyn from 13 Jan. to 5 Aug., the highest count being four on 23 July and 5 Aug.; six at RSPB South Stack on 20 Oct.; singles at Four Mile Bridge on 2 March and Bryngwran on 21 May; DENBIGH: two at Holt on 6 Jan.; singles at Trevalyn Meadows on 23 April and near Rossett on 5 May; FLINT: max. eight at Babell on 2 March; four at Glyndŵr University, Wrexham, on 25 Feb.; one at Cilcain throughout the year.

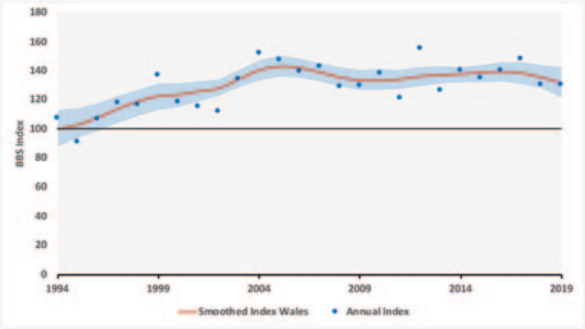
DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* LLWYD Y GWRYCH

Abundant breeding resident (310,000 territories). Occasional post-breeding movements noted on the islands. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	7597	9164
% of BirdTrack lists	41%	41%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has remained stable over the last 15 years, and is 32% above its 1994 baseline.

Breeding Bird Survey: Dunnock in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Counts of 10+: GWENT: 10+ at Penallt on 15 Feb.; 12 near Osbaston on 8 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 21 at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm on 10 Jan.; 12 at Forest Farm/Glamorgan Canal on 17 Jan.; 12 at Portobello, Ogmore, on 24 Jan.; 11 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 29 Jan.; 15 at Trecynon/Robertstown on 11 Feb.; 15 at Cadoxton Ponds on 16 Feb.; max. 11 at Hendre Lake in Feb.; 12 at Hirwaun on 20 March; 10 at Kenfig NNR on 24 Aug., 15 here on 16 Sept. and 18 on 29 Nov.; 10 at Forest Farm on 28 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 22 at Treseissyllt on 3 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 18 at Broadwater on 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 10+ at Aber Ogwen on 11 Feb.; 20 on Bardsey on 1 Oct., 23 on 16th and 30 on 21st.; 40+ at Uwchmynydd on 20 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 10 at Dulas Bay on 22 Feb.; 10 at Carmel Head on 11 May; 10 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 25 Dec.; DENBIGH: 10 at RSPB Conwy on 23 March and 13 here on 6 July; 14 at Llanarmon-yn-lal on 17 April; 16 at Rhos Gellifor on 20 April and 10 on 9 June; 12 at Pentre Maelor on 22 April; FLINT: 10-16 at Pantymwyn during March-June, and 10 here on 1 Dec.; 12 at Connah's Quay NR on 8 May; 10 at Mold on 16 June; 10 at Talacre on 18 June.

WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima* SIGLEN FELEN Y GORLLEWIN

Declining, now scarce, breeder and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	130	212
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: around half a dozen pairs, all in southeast Wales. GWENT: 3-4 pairs in the Usk Valley; BRECON: bred at Storehouse, Pencelli; 2 adults and 11 juveniles at Llyswen on 31 July.

Notable passage: GWENT: max. count 35+ at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 25 Aug. and 20 here on 8 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Dunraven on 29 Aug. and 7 Sept., and 10 here on 8 Sept.; 10 at East Aberthaw on 7 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 14 at Llanrhystud on 23 April.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	23 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve		**29 Sept.**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**
E.GLAMORGAN	12 May	Pant-yr-awel		21 Sept.	Lavernock Pt
GOWER	No spring records			13 Sept.	Castell-du
CARMARTHEN	No spring records			18 Sept.	Kidwelly Marsh
PEMBROKE	20 April	Skomer		24 Sept.	St. Ann's Head
CEREDIGION	23 April	Llanrhystud		20 Aug.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	**9 April**	**Llangasty**		15 Sept.	Llangorse
RADNOR	20 April	Glasbury		18 Sept.	Glasbury
MONTGOMERY	21 April	Dolydd Hafren		6 Aug.	Abermule
MEIRIONNYDD	26 May	Tonfanau		14 July	Tonfanau
CAERNARFON	13 April	Aberdaron		27 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	21 April	Cemlyn & Carmel Head		21 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	22 April	RSPB Conwy		No autumn records	
FLINT	17 April	Connah's Quay NR		20 Sept.	Flint Saltmarsh

***M.f. flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail / Siglen Felen Benlas)**

Singles unless otherwise stated. ANGLESEY: Carmel Head on 5 May; Cemlyn on 15 May and 21 July; CEREDIGION: two at Llanrhystud on 23 April; FLINT: Shotwick Boating Lake on 6 May was *flava x flavissima* hybrid ('Channel Wagtail').

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis* SIGLEN FELEN Y DWYRAIN

Extremely rare vagrant from eastern Asia. BBRC: 10 previous British records, but none in Wales.

ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 25-27 Sept. was identified tentatively as this species, a first for Wales, from photographs and confirmed in the field on the following two days.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola* SIGLEN SITRAIDD

Rare visitor from eastern Europe and Asia. WBRC: 10 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: male at Llwyn-on Res. on 27 April; BRECON: 2CY male at Llangasty on 8 May.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident (5950 pairs), mainly along fast-flowing streams in all counties. Most move downstream in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	*2019*
No of BirdTrack records	1602	1738
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	7%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Waleshas fallen by 8% in the last 10 years, but there are insufficient data to generate a longer-term trend.

Counts (10+ birds): GWENT: 10 on the R. Usk at Llanwenarth; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Cardiff Bay on 16 Sept. and 14 here on 15 Oct.; BRECON: 11 by the R. Usk at Brecon on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 29 on Bardsey on 18 Sept.; DENBIGH: 22 at Penycae on 12 Sept.; FLINT: 34 from roost at Rhydymwyn on 2 Sept. and 31 here on 19th.

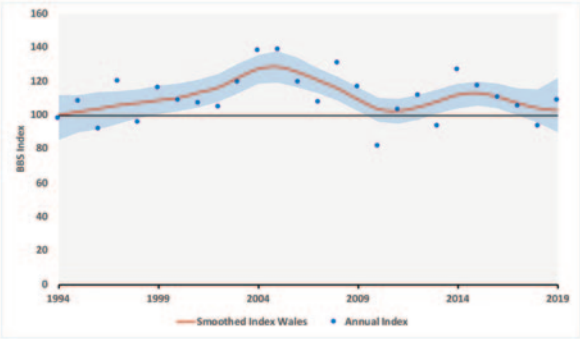
PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* SIGLEN FRAITH

Fairly common and widespread breeding resident (56,000 breeding pairs). Passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	4989	5609
% of BirdTrack lists	26%	24%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has fluctuated during the last 23 years but there is no overall change through that period, though the proportion of BirdTrack lists including Pied Wagtail has fallen from 32% in 2015.

Breeding Bird Survey: Pied Wagtail in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Highest counts (100+) of *yarrellii*: E.GLAMORGAN: 110+ at Cross Inn, Llantrisant, on 22 Dec.; GOWER: 156 at Castell-du on 17 Sept. and 278 here on 24 Nov.; max. *c.*100 at Oxwich Marsh during Aug.-Oct.; *c.*160 at Oxford Street, Swansea, on 24 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 120 at Teifi Marshes on 19 Jan.; 650 roosted at Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest, on 30 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 110 roosted near the White Lion pub, Aberystwyth, in Nov.; BRECON: 150 in pre-roost at Llangasty on 26 Oct.; FLINT: 106 at Connah's Quay NR on 20 Dec.

***M.a.alba* (White Wagtail / Siglen Wen)**

Passage migrant in spring and autumn, mainly of Icelandic population.

Spring passage, singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: three at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 16 April and two here on 22nd; E.GLAMORGAN: at ten sites from 19 March to 27 April, mostly 1-2 but six at Kenfig Saltmarsh on 1 April, 10 at Kenfig Rivermouth on 5 April and 11 here on 9th; PEMBROKE: 200 at Newport on 14 April; 100 at Marloes Mere on 23 April; CEREDIGION/PEMBROKE: at Teifi Marshes throughout April, peaking at 200 on 10-13th; CEREDIGION: widespread from 21 March to 17 May; 75 at Llanrhystud on 23 April; BRECON: two at Llangasty on 3 April; two at Llangorse and one at Crannog on 10 April; Llangorse on 14 April; Llangasty on 8 May; MEIRIONNYDD: Aberdysynni on 29 March; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey from 24 March, with a day peak of 18 on 17 April; ANGLESEY: at The Range from 31 March; 85 at Carmel Head/Hen Borth on 21 April; DENBIGH: at RSPB Conwy from 24 March to 4 May, max. 13 on 11 April; two at Colwyn Bay on 16 April; FLINT: max. eight at Connah's Quay NR on 19 April; two at R. Clwyd saltmarsh on 18 April; two at Sealand on 7 May; Glyndŵr University, Wrexham, on 19 April; Gronant on 30 April and 1 May.

Autumn passage: E.GLAMORGAN: three at Durval Farm, Dunraven, on 29 Aug.; one at Cardiff Bay on 29 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Kidwelly Quay on 20 Sept.; PEMBROKE: *c.*70 at the Gann est. on 12 Sept.; 30 at Dale airfield on 13 Sept.; 20 at Fishguard harbour on 14 Sept.; CEREDIGION: two at Llanrhystud on 28 Aug. and one here on 1 Sept.; RADNOR: three at Blackhill on 25 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 38 at Broadwater on 22 Sept., 51 here on 29th and and 22 on 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey from early Aug to 24 Oct., with peak of 80 on 18 Sept.; DENBIGH: four at RSPB Conwy on 31 Aug. and 1+ on 9 Sept.; FLINT: R. Clwyd saltmarsh on 10 Sept.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* CORHEDYDD RICHARD

Uncommon autumn passage migrant.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	7	11
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Singles unless otherwise stated. E.GLAMORGAN: one over Sker Pt and another between Nash Pt and St Donats on 13 Nov.; CAERNARFON: two over Bardsey on 15 Oct. and one on 16th; Great Orme on 23 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Alaw est. on 18 Oct.; RSPB South Stack on 29 Oct.; The Range on 18 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 5 Oct.; Tanybwlch on 3 Nov.; FLINT: Point of Ayr on 18 Oct.

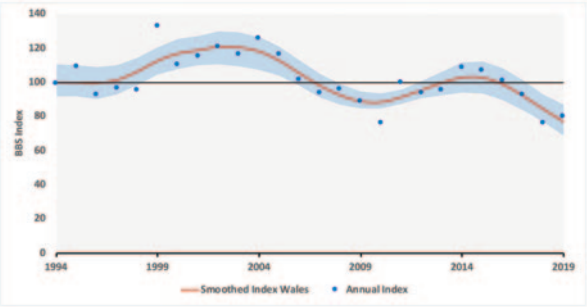
MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

Abundant and widespread breeding species, especially on moorland (170,000 pairs). Winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	3976	4766
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	20%

The cyclical nature of Meadow Pipit populations is evident in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, but the overall trend is moving from stable to decline. It is now 15% below its 1994 baseline and 36% below its 2002 peak. Meadow Pipits are a staple part of predatory birds' diet in the uplands, so this is worrying particularly as breeding records from Breconshire suggested a poor year. The breeding population on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, fell to its lowest level since 2007, at 46 pairs.

Breeding Bird Survey: Meadow Pipit in Wales, 1994 - 2019



High counts (100+): GWENT: 100 on The Blorenge on 19 Sept.; 148 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Sept.; 100 at Peterstone Gout on 3 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 150 at East Aberthaw on 7 Sept.; 200 at Dunraven Park on 13 Sept. and 380 here on 14th; 650 at Lavernock Pt on 13 Sept., 230 here on 19th and 145 on 14 Oct.; GOWER: 250 east at Rhossili and 100 at Mewslade/Middleton on 14 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 250 at St Davids Head on 10 April; 313 on Skokholm on 30 Sept.; 100 at Dale airfield on 2 Nov.; 112 at Castlemartin Corse on 25 Nov.; CEREDIGION: large northward passage through Ynyslas from 8 March to 9 April, included 1072 on 23 March, 1708 on 6 April, 4172 on 8th and 1651 on 9th; 578 south at Aberystwyth on 30 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 259 at Broadwater on 22 Sept. and 120 here on 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 199 at Aber Ogwen on 18 March; 250 on the Great Orme on 6 April and 200 here on 20 April; peak day counts on Bardsey were 170 on 23 March, 155 on 27th, 121 on 28th and 128 on 18 April, and in autumn 272 on 14 Sept., 448 on 25th, 496 on 30th, 225 on 1 Oct. and 495 on 15th; 192 around Glan-y-môr Elias on 12 Oct.; ANGLESEY: *c.*200 at RSPB

South Stack on 18 March; 125 at Cemlyn on 8 April; FLINT: max. 202 at Connah's Quay NR on 18 April; 136 at Point of Ayr on 18 Oct.

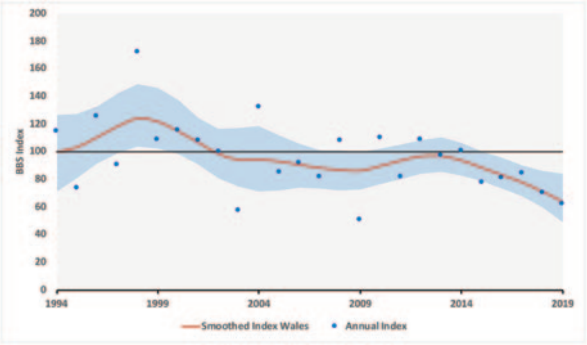
TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* CORHEDYDD Y COED

Fairly common, but localised, summer visitor (16,500 breeding pairs) and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	373	389
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	1%

The downward trend in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales continued in 2019, taking the smoothed trend to its lowest point, 31% below its 1994 starting point.

Breeding Bird Survey: Tree Pipit in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	11 April	Wentwood		16 Sept.	Parc Bryn Bach
E.GLAMORGAN	**28 March**	**Myndd Dimlaith**		14 Sept.	Lavernock Pt
GOWER	19 April	Penclawdd		15 Sept.	Rhossili
CARMARTHEN	16 April	Llyn Llech Owain		26 Aug.	Pembrey airfield
PEMBROKE	8 April	Skokholm		**19 Sept.**	**Trefrane**
CEREDIGION	6 April	Ynyslas		No autumn records	
BRECON	7 April	Capel-y-ffin		30 Aug.	Crickadarn
RADNOR	23 April	Gilfach Farm		No autumn records	
MONTGOMERY	15 April	Dyfi		No autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	7 April	Ynysfor		8 Aug.	Ynysfor
CAERNARFON	1 April	Bangor Roman Camp		6 July	Pwllheli
ANGLESEY	13 April	Hen Borth		22 June	RSPB Valley Wetlands
DENBIGH	19 April	Llyn Brenig		No autumn records	
FLINT	30 April	Connah's Quay NR		No autumn records	

BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT *Anthus rubescens* CORHEDYDD MELYNLLWYD

Extremely rare vagrant that breeds in North America, central and eastern Asia. BBRC: 45 previous British records but none in Wales.

CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 29-30 Sept. was the first for Wales.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Uncommon, but locally numerous, winter visitor, mainly to coastal areas, and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	194	217
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The flock at Peterstone, GWENT, that numbered upwards of 20 between 10 Feb. and mid April, and peaked at 50 in late March, is the largest recorded in Wales.

First winter period (single birds unless otherwise stated): GWENT: max. 50 at Peterstone Sluice Farm on 23 March; three at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 6 April; E.GLAMORGAN: Llwyn-on Res. from 2 Jan. to 3 Feb.; 1-2 at Ogmore est./Portobello from 6 Jan. to 1 April, but three here on 11 Jan. and 3 Feb.; four at Rumney Great Wharf on 13 March; East Aberthaw on 23 March; Cardiff Bay Barrage on 12 April; GOWER: 1-2 between Llanrhidian and Penclawdd from 3 Feb. to 23 March; CARMARTHEN: four at Penclacwydd in Jan. and six in Feb.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. from 2 Jan. to 14 March; CEREDIGION: five along the R. Clettwr in Jan. and Feb. and two on 6 March; Teifi est. from 20 Jan. to 10 Feb.; Cors Fochno on 11 Feb.; Cors Caron on 27 March; Ynyslas on 27 March; CAERNARFON: Pwllheli on 7 Jan.; Foryd on 23 March; Llyn Padarn on 14 April; ANGLESEY: two at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 1 Jan., at least one until 7 Jan.; two at Red Wharf Bay on 12 Feb.; Penrhos CP on 11 March; FLINT: Gronant Dunes on 18 Feb.

Second winter period: GWENT: max. 12 at Peterstone Sluice Farm on 28 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 13 Nov.; Rumney Great Wharf on 17 Nov.; Ogmore est. from 21 Nov. to 18 Dec. and three here on 3 Dec.; Rhymney est. on 16 Dec.; Sker on 20 Dec.; GOWER: Castell-du on 17 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd in Oct.-Dec.; Pembrey Harbour on 23 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. from 16 Oct. to 31 Dec; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 2 Dec.; RSPB Ynys-hir on 18 Dec.; ANGLESEY: two at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 1 Oct. and one on several dates to the end of the year; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 10 Nov. and 14 Dec.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21 Oct. and 9 Dec.; Gronant on 1-13 Nov.; R. Clwyd saltmarsh on 5 Dec.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Localised, fairly common resident of rocky coastlines, except in Flintshire and Gwent. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to estuaries from Scandinavia. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1624	1741
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	7%

Selected breeding records: E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Aberthaw; CARMARTHEN: three pairs at Burry Port Harbour and two pairs at Pembrey Harbour; CAERNARFON: 42 pairs on Bardsey (*cf.* 40 in 2018).

Counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 17 at Portobello, Ogmore est., on 7 Feb. and 20 here on 17 March; 12 on Flat Holm on 9 Sept.; 12 at Portobello, Ogmore est., on 13 Nov. and 30 here on 16 Dec.; GOWER: 15 at Overton Mere on 7 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 21 on Skokholm on 2 Aug.; 34 at the Gann est. on 25 Sept.; 30 at Abercastle on 29 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 10+ on Bardsey throughout the year.

***A.p. littoralis* (Scandinavian Rock Pipit / Corhedydd y Graig Llychlyn)**

Passage migrant, but probably under-recorded.

CAERNARFON: Morfa Aber on 12 March.

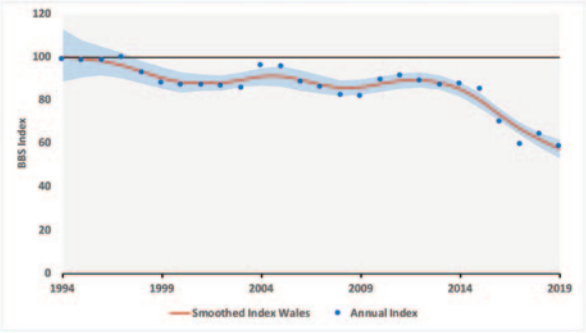
CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* JI-BINC

Abundant resident (470,000 breeding territories), passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	8037	8857
% of BirdTrack lists	43%	39%

The BTO has drawn attention to the decline in the Breeding Bird Survey index across the UK; but the fall has been greatest in Wales, where the breeding population has fallen 38% since 1994. The BirdTrack reporting rate has also dropped, by 25% since 2015. The only regular census is on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, where three pairs bred (*cf*. 11-12 pairs in 2012-15).

Breeding Bird Survey: Chaffinch in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Counts of 150+ in first winter period: GWENT: 300 at Llangybi on 18 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 280 in a turnip field at Capel Bangor on 16 Jan.; BRECON: 150 at Rhydywernen Farm in Jan.; CAERNARFON: 200 at Llanengan on 3 Jan.; FLINT: 150+ at Connah's Quay on 17-31 Jan., max. 200 on 22nd.

Passage was evident along the south and northwest coasts from mid October to late November. Counts of 150+: E.GLAMORGAN: high counts at Lavernock Pt in Oct. and Nov. included 1310 on 14 Oct., 240 on 15th, 260 on 20th and 480 on 30th, 320 on 10 Nov., 510 on 16th, 720 on 17th and 120 on 24th; GOWER: 250 east at Rhossili on 14 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 150 at Cae'r Meirch on 18 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 375 at Glan-y-môr Elias on 12 Oct.; 139 passed Bangor on 14 Oct. and 171 here on 15th, 135 on 21st, 605 on 22nd and 190 on 27th; 500+ north at Porth Meudwy on 21 Oct.; 200+ at Aber Ogwen and 453 passed Morfa Madryn in two hours on 23 Oct.; flocks totalling 1107, mainly of this species, passed Llanfairfechan on 27th; 144 over Bardsey on 15 Oct., 1484 on 20th, 215 on 21st and 194 on 28th; ANGLESEY: 770 over RSPB South Stack on 20 Oct. and 614 here on 29th; 200+ at Cemlyn on 28 Oct.; 200 at Llyn Traffwll on 6-7 Nov.; FLINT: 811 at Point of Ayr on 21 Oct.

Counts of 150+ in second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 300 at Edwardsville Woods on 21 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 500 at Tan y Coed, Pantperthog, on 29 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 400 at Rowen on 29 Dec.; FLINT: 150 at Point of Ayr on 3 Dec. and 370 here on 20th.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* PINC Y MYNYDD

Winter visitor in variable numbers; seldom numerous and usually locally distributed. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	365	233
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Following good numbers at the start of winter 2018/19, large flocks continued to be seen, almost exclusively in mid and southeast Wales, but smaller numbers than prior to Christmas.

Large counts (10+) in first winter period: GWENT: 400 at Graig Ddu on 18 March; BRECON: 100+ at Brochen, above Llysdinam, on 13 Jan.; 129 at Priory Groves, Brecon, on 12 Jan., increasing to 200 on 15th, then 75 here on 10 Feb.; flock of 50+ remained in Llysdinam/Newbridge area into late Feb. and may have been birds that moved down the Wye Valley to Brynwern on 5 March, where numbers increased to 150 on 15th, before diminishing to *c.*10 on 7 April; RADNOR: 50 at Bridgehill on 19 Feb.; 13+ at Upper Caerddu on 10 March; MONTGOMERY: max. 500 at Pen-yr-Allt Wood, Llanidloes, on 7-25 Jan.; 50 at Llwynderw,

near Llanidloes, on 10 Feb.; 30 in a Llandyssil garden on 8 April; DENBIGH: 12 at Felin Puleston on 17 Jan.; 10 at Erddig Pool, Wrexham, on 18 Jan.; 10-22 at Bwlchgwyn from 20 Jan. to 7 April; FLINT: 10+ at Pantymwyn between 6 March and 17 April, max. 22 on 12 April.

Large counts (10+) in second winter period: BRECON: 10+ at Llysdinam on 20 Oct.; 10 at Nant Ddu on 17 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 50 at Tan y Coed, Pantperthog, on 29 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 20 on Bardsey on 20 Oct., 28 on 21st and 13 on 28th; ANGLESEY: 12 at RSPB South Stack on 29 Oct.; DENBIGH: 12 at Bwlchgwyn on 3 Dec.

Ringing: MONTGOMERY: 100+ caught in a garden outside Welshpool between Jan. and April, including one ringed in Belgium.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* GYLFINBRAFF

Localised and uncommon resident, principally in southeast Wales and Meirionnydd - RBBP: 101-141 pairs in 2018. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor from Norway. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	270	201
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Recorded at five sites in the breeding season, but no records from Gwent and Meirionnydd, the strongholds in Wales. Good counts were recorded from several sites during the winter periods, including Llanrhos in Caernarfonshire and Coed y brenin in Meirionnydd.

Breeding season (mainly April to June): GWENT: present at Luggas Wood and Gwern Ddu, but no information from core breeding area; E.GLAMORGAN: pair fledged four in Nolton churchyard; two females with brood patches ringed in Fforest Ganol on 14 May, where a juvenile was fed by a male; CARMARTHEN: pair at RSPB Dinas fledged at least three young, the first for the reserve; MONTGOMERY: no breeding confirmed but records in June suggested possibly bred at Machynlleth and Ceinws; DENBIGH: two in Capel Garmon on 11 June.

First winter period: GWENT: singles at Penallt, Mathern and Lower Minnett's Wood in March; GOWER: one at Melincourt on 29 April; CARMARTHEN: one in a Carmarthen garden on 27 April; MONTGOMERY: 20 at Powis Castle on 2 Jan.; six at Machynlleth cemetery on 8 March; MEIRIONNYDD: at Llanelltyd Churchyard from 19 Jan. to 8 April, including 15 on 19 Jan. and 13 on 26 March; two at Marchynys, Mawddach, on 31 March; CAERNARFON: two at Llanrhos on 30 Jan. and three here on 31st, 19 on 6 Feb. and 28 on 28th; two at Llanbedr-y-cennin on 6 Jan. and 13 Feb.; three at Caerhun on 28 March; Henryd on 27 Feb.; Abercegin on 10 April; DENBIGH: max. eight in Llanrwst on 16 Jan.; three at Llyn Brenig on 22 Feb.

Second winter period: GWENT: King's Wood on 31 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: Cefn Mably on 24 Nov.; 22 at Fforest Ganol on 21 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: two at Powis Castle on 28 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: Lower Tryweryn on 8 Dec.; seven in St Twrog churchyard, Maentwrog, on 29 Dec. and two here on 30th; 69 roosted in Coed y brenin on 30 Nov. and 65 here on 4 Dec.; CAERNARFON: two at Llanrhos on 24 Oct.; Llanbedr-y-cennin on 27 Oct. and 29 Dec.; three at Caerhun on 20 Dec.; DENBIGH: two at Llanrwst on 22 Dec. and one on 29th.

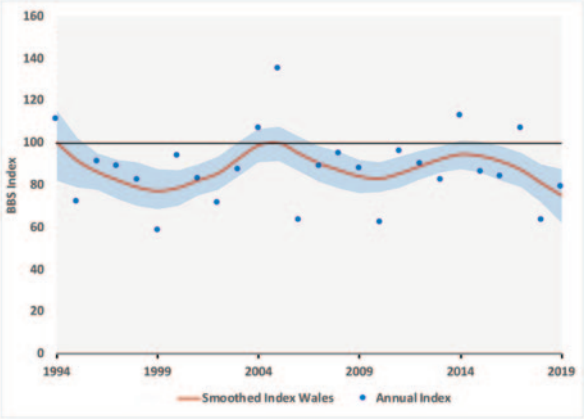
BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* COCH Y BERLLAN

Fairly common resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands (29,500 breeding territories). Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2601	2934
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	13%

Bullfinch numbers have recovered across the UK in recent years and had almost returned to their 1994 level in Wales, but two poor years has led to a 12% decrease during 2014-18.

Breeding Bird Survey: Bullfinch in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Parc Slip NR on 10 Jan.; 11 at Cadoxton Ponds on 21 March; 11 at Kenfig NNR on 20 Oct.; 13 at Parc Taf Bargoed on 15 Dec.; GOWER: 13 at Middleton/Mewslade on 19 Oct.; 11 at Whiteford on 29 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 15 at Fronfedw on 20 July; 20 at Pickle Wood on 27 July; 10 at Rosebush on 30 July; CEREDIGION: 20 at Llyn Blaenmelindwr on 12 Dec.; CAERNARFON: movements passed Bangor during Oct. included 14 on 9th, 20 on 14th, 45 on 15th, 29 on 16th, 22 on 21st and 14 on 23rd; FLINT: 10 at Pantymwyn on 16 June and 18 July, 11 here on 11 Oct. and 12 on 20th.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* LLINOS GOCH

Scarce passage migrant from north/eastern Europe. WBRC: 159 previous records.

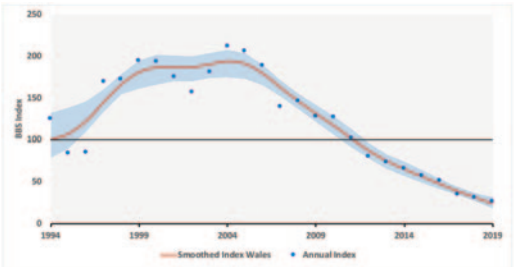
All female/1CY. PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 23-25 Sept. and 1 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 22 May and a different bird on 1 June.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris* LLINOS WERDD

Fairly common resident (38,000 breeding pairs), but has declined as a result of Trichomonosis disease. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2565	2954
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	13%

Breeding Bird Survey: Greenfinch in Wales, 1994 - 2019



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached another new low in 2019, for its ninth consecutive year, having fallen 89% since its 2004 peak, and by 71% since 1994. This is, however, the first for several years that the BirdTrack reporting rate has not fallen. It was described as a "poor year" for breeding in Breconshire and there were no counts in

double figures in Ceredigion during the year.

Highest counts (40+): GWENT: 40 at Llanfihangel-tor-y-mynydd on 25 Dec.; GOWER: 56 caught at Oxwich on 3 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 300+ at a roost in Llandudno on 20 Jan. and 185 here on 4 Dec.; 150+ at Llanfairfechan on 23 Jan.; *c.*80 on Great Orme on 13 Oct.; 40+ at Foryd Bay on 19 Oct.; ANGLESEY: *c.*60 near Church Island, Menai Strait, on 17 Jan.; FLINT: 60 at Point of Ayr on 21 Oct.

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris* LLINOS Y MYNYDD

Rare breeding species, now restricted to a small part of Caernarfonshire. Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	151	134
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season: CAERNARFON: Nant Ffrancon from 3 April to 19 May, max. four on 18 and 27 April, and 16 May; one in the upper Llugwy valley on 21 May.

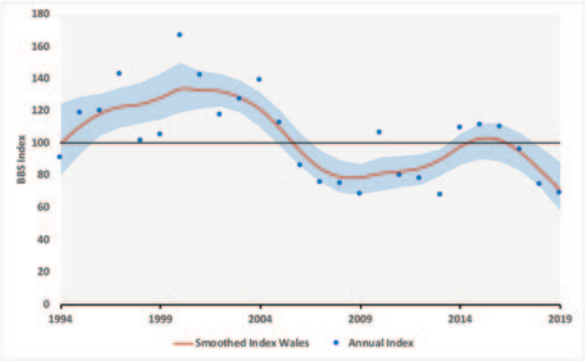
Non-breeding: CEREDIGION: eight along the R. Leri on 6-8 Jan. and 19 Feb.; CAERNARFON: one at Dinas Dinlle on 6 Jan.; one at Llandudno on 10 Feb.; two at Bangor on 11 April; eight over Bardsey on 19 Oct.; ANGLESEY: at Cemlyn, five on 23 and 30 March, 12 on 31 March, 11 on 6-8 April and three on 13 April; FLINT: max. 63 at Connah's Quay NR on 19 Feb., with 12 remaining until 21 April; up to 16 here in second winter period from 21 Oct.; max. 22 at Talacre on 18 Jan. and three here on 21 Oct.; max. 12 at Gronant on 2 Nov.

LINNET *Linaria cannabina* LLINOS

Fairly common resident (47,500 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2690	3466
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	15%

Breeding Bird Survey: Linnet in Wales, 1994 - 2019



It now looks like the recovery of Linnets was a temporary phenomenon; the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has declined for its fourth successive year, by 25% since 1994 and by half since the start of the 21st century. Passage was notable in Ceredigion in spring and in E.Glamorgan in autumn.

Breeding surveys: CAERNARFON: 23 pairs bred on Bardsey, the same as 2018, and 80 juveniles were recorded, giving a productivity of 3.48 young/pair.

Counts (100+) in first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 137 at Nottage fields on 1 March; CARMARTHEN: 107 at Pembrey CP on 9 March; PEMBROKE: 161 at Gupon-Castlemartin Corse on 30 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 100 at Llanerchaeron on 16 Feb.; 681 at Ynyslas on 8 April and 284 here on 9th; BRECON: 150 at Ffrwdgrech on 19 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 108 on Bardsey on 18 April; FLINT: 100 at Gronant dunes on 3 Jan.

Counts (100+) in second winter period: GWENT: 250 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 10 Sept., 300 here on 19th and 3 Oct.; 350 at Mathern Oaze on 15 Sept.; 280 near Osbaston on 2 Oct. and 300 here on 19 Nov.;

E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at East Aberthaw on 12 Aug.; 250 at Wentloog Levels on 27 Aug.; 160 at Sker Pt on 1 Sept., 300 here on 13th, 940 on 14th, 250 on 15th, 190 on 17th, 180 on 20th and 120 on 28th; GOWER: 150 at The Viel, Rhossili, on 18 Aug.; *c.*170 at Whiteford near Berges Island on 25 Sept.; 100 at Rhossili on 14 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 400 at Freshwater West on 27 Aug.; 100 at Trefin on 15 Sept.; 120 at Dale airfield on 24 Sept.; 150 at Treseissyllt on 2 Oct.; 240 at Gupon-Castlemartin Corse on 17 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Cors Caron on 5 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 242 on Bardsey on 12 Aug., 239 here on 21st and 225 on 28th; FLINT: 161 at R. Clwyd saltmarsh on 2 Oct., 120 here on 2 and 5 Dec. and 100 on 8 Dec.

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret* LLINOS BENGOCH FECHAN

Uncommon breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	588	700
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Numbers monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey in Wales fell again in 2019, so the population is similar to that of 10 years ago.

Large counts (15+) in first winter period: GWENT: 20 at Llanfoist on 6 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 32 at Blaencaerau on 2 Jan.; 22 at Cefnpennar on 22 March; CEREDIGION: 40 at Allt Clwtpatrwm, Llanfair Clydogau, on 8 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 50 on the Great Orme on 20 April; 35+ at Coedydd Aber on 27 April; on Bardsey, max. day counts of 26 on 21 April and 37 on 23rd; ANGLESEY: 20 at Carmel Head on 20 April and 40 here on 22nd; DENBIGH: 30 at Bwlchgwyn on 1 Jan.; *c.*20 at Froncysyllte on 8 Jan.; 15 at Llyn Brenig on 18 April.

Large counts (15+) in second winter period: GWENT: 28 at Magor Pill on 28 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 16 at Abercwmboi on 16 Nov.; 42 at Pwll Waun Cynon NR on 15 Nov.; 40 at Dare Valley CP on 18 Nov.; 17 at Craig Abercwmboi on 27 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 15 at Allt Clyn on 3 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 20 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 21 Oct.; 18 at Cwm Einion on 30 Oct.; BRECON: 20 at Sgwd Clun-gwyn waterfalls on 30 Dec.; DENBIGH: 30 at Bronygarth on 4 Nov.; 20 at Chirk Castle on 24 Nov.; 20 at Fenn's Moss on 4 Dec.

Ringing: GOWER: male caught in Crynant on 6 May had been ringed at Lozère, France, on 4 Feb. 2018, a

Lesser Redpoll (Bob Garrett)

distance of 937km; MEIRIONNYDD: one caught at Abergynolwyn on 30 March had been ringed in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, on 30 Oct. 2014.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* GYLFINGROES

Locally fairly common breeding species although numbers fluctuate. Occasional irruptive immigrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	364	424
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: possibly bred at Llwyn-on Res.; BRECON: bred in Tirabad in Feb.; two family parties at Talymaes Farm and Coetgae Mawr in May; MONTGOMERY: possibly bred at Ceri Ridgeway in Jan.; ANGLESEY: juveniles in Newborough Forest in April and May; DENBIGH: fledged young in Coed Hafod in June; possibly bred at Bwlchgwyn, Coed Llandegla and several sites in Clocaenog Forest.

Large counts (25+): GWENT: max. 55 at Mynydd Henllys on 25 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: in Jan., 40 at Cadair Fawr, 40 at Cefn Cadlan and 23 at Garwnant; PEMBROKE: 30 at Bwlch-gwynt on 18 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 30, including juveniles, at Hafod Estate in July; BRECON: up to 53 in three flocks around Usk Res. on 5 Jan.; 25 at Coed y waun on 9 Jan.; at least 50 in Crychan Forest in late Jan.; 25 at Llaneglwys Forest on 16 Feb.; 65 around Mynydd Du Forest on 18 March; MONTGOMERY: 30 on the Ceri Ridgeway on 24 Jan.; DENBIGH: in Clocaenog Forest, 30 on 26 Jan., 40 on 18 Feb., 37 on 22nd and 25 on 28th.

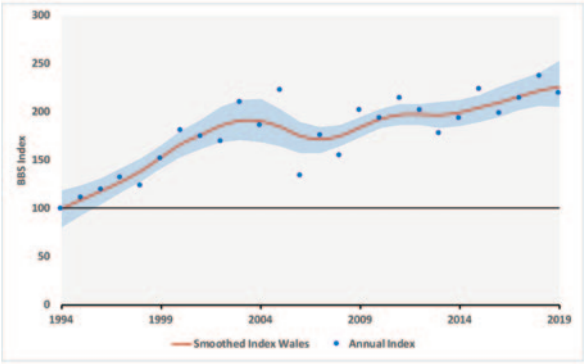
GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* NICO

Fairly common resident and summer visitor (180,000 breeding pairs) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	7844	8994
% of BirdTrack lists	42%	40%

The rise and rise of the Goldfinch continues, with the Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index reaching a new high in Wales, more than double its 1994 baseline.

Breeding Bird Survey: Goldfinch in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Flocks of 100+ in spring: CEREDIGION: 197 at Ynyslas on 6 April and 216 here on 8th.

Flocks of 100+ on autumn passage: GWENT: 121 east over Black Rock, Sudbrook, on 6 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 500 at Rumney Great Wharf on 28 Aug.; significant movement at Lavernock Pt between 13 Oct. and 17 Nov. included 2800 on 14 Oct., 1210 on 20th, 1080 on 28th and 840 on 17 Nov.; GOWER: 100+ at Mewslade on 1 Jan. and 150 here on 12 Oct.; 200-500 at The Viel, Rhossili, during Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 150 at Penclacwydd in Oct.; PEMBROKE: 480 at St Davids airfield on 24 Sept.; BRECON: 100+ at Caeau Tŷ Mawr, Llangasty, in Sept. and Oct.; CAERNARFON: 121 passed Bangor on 15 Oct.; 100+ at Pwllheli marina on 9 Sept.; 200+ at Aber Ogwen on 22 Oct.; on Bardsey, max. day count of 124 on 20 Oct.; FLINT 120 at Rhyl on 1 Aug.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* LLINOS FRECH

Scarce migrant from southern Europe. WBRC: 33 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Nash Pt on 24 Nov., the first county record since March 1972.

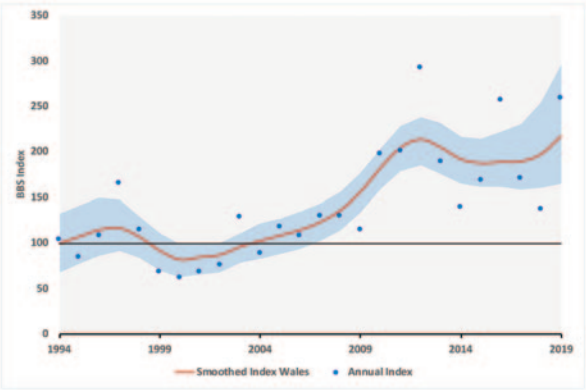
SISKIN *Spinus spinus* PILA GWYRDD

Fairly common but local breeding species (58,500 pairs), winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	1746	2160
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	9%

2019 saw one of the highest encounter rates in Breeding Bird Survey history, leading to the smoothed index for Wales reaching a record high, 84% above its 1994 baseline and reversing a recent dip in its fortunes.

Breeding Bird Survey: Siskin in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Large counts (60+): E.GLAMORGAN: 225 at Lavernock Pt on 14 Oct.; 60 at Dare Valley CP on 16 Dec.; 95 at Llety Rhys Farm, Hirwaun, on 22 Dec.; 60 at Robertstown on 27 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 80 at Pembrey CP on 20 Jan.; BRECON: 100+ in Llaneglwys Wood on 16 Feb.; 80 in Glyn Tarrell Forest on 2 Oct. and 45 here on 27th; MEIRIONNYDD: 60 at Waen yr Hydd on 10 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 68 past Morfa Madryn on 23 Oct.; 142 on Bardsey on 15 Oct. and 189 here on 20th; ANGLESEY: 325 at Carmel Head on 20 Oct.; DENBIGH: 60 at Clocaenog Forest on 18 Feb.; 80 at Llyn Brenig on 28 Feb.; FLINT: 197 at Point of Ayr on 18 Oct. and 911 on 21st.

Ringing: GOWER: a male caught at Crynant on 13 Feb. had been ringed at Minehead, Somerset, on 6 Feb. having travelled 62km in seven days.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* BRAS Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon but regular passage migrant, especially in autumn, and occasional winter resident. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	25	82
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records were in the second winter period and singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Coldharbour Pill on 13 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Marloes on 2 Oct.; Martin's Haven on 15 and 22 Oct., and 10 Nov.; Skokholm on 23 Oct., 3 and 23 Nov.; four at Dale airfield on 29 Oct. decreasing to one on 2 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Llanon on 6 Oct.; Llanrhystud on 20 and 22 Oct.; CAERNARFON: four on the Great Orme on 7 Sept., then 1-2 daily here until 14th, then one here from 30 Oct. to 8 Nov.; Bardsey on 8 Sept., two on 18th, one on 20th, four on 30 Sept. and 2 Oct. and singles on 10th, 12th, 24th and 27th; ANGLESEY: three at Cemlyn on 9 Oct., nine on 12th, three on 21st and two on 24th; RSPB South Stack on 29-31 Oct.; Newborough on 19 Nov.; FLINT: two at Gronant on 2 Nov.

Lapland Bunting (Tony Pope)

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* BRAS YR EIRA

Uncommon but regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	12	167
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

First winter period, only two records, both of single birds: ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack on 28 Jan.; Moelfre on 23 Feb.

Second winter period (single birds unless otherwise stated): GWENT: The Blorenge on 21-24 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: Pink Bay, Porthcawl, on 3 Nov., then two on 4th; Cefnrhos-gwawr, Aberdare, on 5 Nov.; Flat Holm on 7 Nov.; The Knap, Barry, on 11-24 Nov.; GOWER: Weobley saltings on 15 and 29 Oct.; Mumbles on 8 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Burry Port on 19 Nov.; PEMBROKE: four on Dale airfield on 26 Oct., increasing to six on 1 Nov., and four here on 2nd; Gann est. on 14 Oct.; Skokholm on 21 and 24 Oct., 7 and 29 Nov.; five at Marloes Mere on 27 Oct.; Skomer on 3 and 11 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 22 and 26-28 Oct.; male at Tanybwlch/Allt Wen from 26 Oct. to 4 Nov.; male at Llanrhystud on 31 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: two at Carnedd y Filiast on 6 Dec.; four over Cadair Idris on 25 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 12 Oct.; 1-2 on the Great Orme from 12 Oct. to 4 Nov., and 10 on 23rd; West Shore, Llandudno, on 2-5 Nov.; Morfa Madryn on 4 Nov.; Uwchmynydd on 16 Nov.; Penrhyn Bay/Rhos-on-Sea on 3-7 Dec.; Snowdon on 29 Dec.; ANGLESEY: three at Hen Borth/Cemlyn from 21 Oct. to 20 Nov.; three at Cemaes on 27 Oct.; Llanddwyn on 29 Oct.; seven at Newborough on 18 Nov.; Soldier's Pt on 19 Nov.; RSPB South Stack on 30 Nov. and 2 Dec.; DENBIGH: Horton's Nose on 22 Dec. and three here on 31 Dec.; FLINT: two at Gronant Dunes on 31 Oct. and 1 Nov.

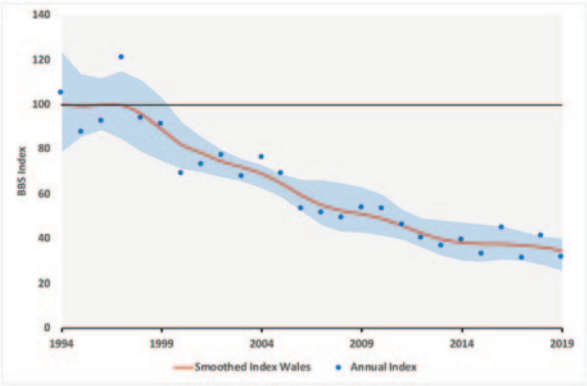
YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* BRAS MELYN

Declining but patchily-distributed and locally fairly common resident (31,500 breeding territories). Wales Red listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	228	249
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

The decline in Yellowhammers continues, with the Breeding Bird Index for Wales hitting a new low, down 64% on its 1994 baseline with a sample size approaching a level at which it will no longer be able to produce a meaningful graph. Pleasingly, there were new flocks seen at Pontfaen, Breconshire, that were unlikely to be passage birds and one at Wern Rhosesmor, Flintshire, was the first site record for 10 years. Birds were also recorded at a new site in Ceredigion, near Llechryd, where four were ringed on 6 Feb.

Breeding Bird Survey: Yellowhammer in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Breeding pairs or territorial males, under-recorded in many counties: GWENT: two at St Mary's Vale; one at The Blorenge; GOWER: Nitten Field, Mewslade; CARMARTHEN: up to four pairs at Llyn Brianne, three pairs at RSPB Dinas, two pairs at Bwlch-y-rhiw and one pair at Eithin Tewion, Cilycwm; PEMBROKE: three locations; BRECON: 23 sites, with a max. five pairs at Sychnant Farm; MONTGOMERY: bred in the Tanat Valley; MEIRIONNYDD: at least nine singing males in seven locations; DENBIGH: bred at Llanerch-yr-Aur and Garreg Ddu; FLINT: three locations.

Large counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Dunraven Park on 18 Feb.; 12 at Slade Farm on 23 Nov.; 18 at Dunraven Park on 4 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 16 at Folkston Farm, Hilton, on 10 May; BRECON: up to 60 on winter birdcrop at Llanbeilin, Llangorse; 15-20 in Pennorth between Jan. and March and 60 here on 26 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 35 near Machynlleth on 20 Jan.; 28 on Y Wylfa on 19 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: 14 at Dyfi Junction on 20 Jan.; 24 at Ynys Saltings from early Jan. to 20 April and up to 20 using feeders in a nearby garden from 16 Sept. to 31 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 15 at Brynteg on 13 March and 18 here on 14 Aug.; DENBIGH: 63 at a garden feeding station outside Bodfari on 11 April.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* BRAS GERDDI

Scarce migrant from southern Europe. WBRC: 181 previous records.

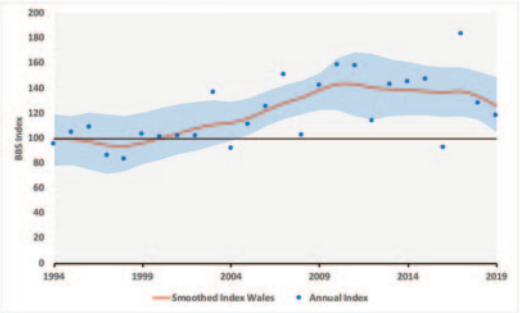
Singles. E.GLAMORGAN: Penrhifwr, Rhondda, on 26 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 16 May.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* BRAS CYRS

Fairly common resident, mainly in damp habitats (17,500 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed.

	2018	2019
No of BirdTrack records	2098	2421
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	10%

Breeding Bird Survey: Reed Bunting in Wales, 1994 - 2019



Numbers in three of the last four years have been below the recent average, leading to a further fall in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales; it now lies 34% above its 1994 level.

Large counts (20+): GWENT: 20 at Peterstone foreshore on 23 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: 31 at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 10 Jan.; 23 at Rumney Great Wharf on 10 Feb.; GOWER: 32 at Whiteford Pt on 8 Jan.; 30 at Tircoch Isaf Farm, Llanmorlais, on 3 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 20 at Ginst Pt on 28 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 30 at Teifi Marshes on 7 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 30 at Ynys Tachwedd on 21 Feb.;

BRECON: 35 at Pennorth in Jan. and 60 here on 27 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 20 at Dolydd Hafren on 23 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 23 at Pennal on 17 July; CAERNARFON: 20 at Llanengan on 3 Jan.; DENBIGH: 23 at Fenn's Moss on 8 Nov. and 26 here on 4 Dec.; FLINT: 20 at Gronant on 23 May and 22 here on 24 June.

Behaviour: Reed Buntings mobbed a Woodchat Shrike at Cemlyn, ANGLESEY, on 26 May.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER *Setophaga coronata* TELOR TINFELYN
Extremely rare vagrant from North America. BBRC: two previous records.

PEMBROKE: one on Ramsey on 31 May-1 June, the second for the island.

ESCAPES

The following species (single birds unless otherwise stated) were reported to county recorders and BirdTrack.

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL *Numida meleagris* IAR GINI HELMOG
E.GLAMORGAN: up to 20 in Flemingston village during the year; MONTGOMERY: two at Meifod on 26 Aug.

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Pavo cristatus* PAUN
MONTGOMERY: two at Meifod on 26 Aug.; CAERNARFON: between Llanbedr-y-cennin and Trefriw on 28 April; at least four around Bangor city centre from July, into 2020; DENBIGH: up to three at Faenol Fawr, Bodelwyddan, during the year; FLINT: Nercwys on 21 May.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* GWYDD FRONGOCH
CEREDIGION: Cors Caron on 1 Jan.; RSPB Ynys-hir from 22 April to 30 Sept.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* GWYDD BENRHESOG
CARMARTHEN: Dryslwyn on 27 Oct. and 7 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. from 13 Aug. to 13 Oct.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi Marshes on 28 Sept.; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 30 June and 19 July.

ROSS'S GOOSE *Anser rossii* GWYDD ROSS
DENBIGH: Borras on 7 Sept.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* GWYDD YR EIRA
ANGLESEY: Llyn Traffwll from 30 Jan. to 13 Feb.; Llyn Maelog on 4 Aug.; Valley Wetlands on 2 Sept.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR from 2 June to 20 July.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* GWYDD DALCEN-WEN FECHAN
ANGLESEY: two at RSPB Valley Wetlands between 27 Feb. and 18 March, and one here on 20th.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* ALARCH DDU
GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 23 March and from 27 July to 22 Oct.; PEMBROKE: four off Skokholm, then Whitesands on 26 March; Angle Bay on 23 June; Cleddau est. in Nov.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. from 2 Sept. to 10 Nov.; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir from 30 March to 18 April; FLINT: two in the Dee est., usually around Shotwick Lake, until 20 April, and one from 2 Sept. to 5 Oct.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN
CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 6 Jan.; DENBIGH/FLINT: R. Clwyd between Rhuddlan and Rhyl on 29 Aug., two from 23 Sept. to 6 Nov., then one until 31 Dec.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 24 Aug.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* HWYADEN FWSG
GWENT: Brynmawr Ponds from 4 Jan. to 1 July; Llanwenarth on 6 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Parc Taf Bargoed throughout the year; Bryngarw CP on 13 Jan.; Clydach Vale CP in Feb.-April and Sept.; Tirfounder Fields, Aberdare, on 17 March; GOWER: two on Fendrod Lake in Jan./Feb. and one in Nov./Dec.; PEMBROKE: Goodwick harbour on 12 Jan.; BRECON: Brecon Basin in Jan., Aug. and Sept.; CAERNARFON: Trefriw on 1 April; DENBIGH: Farndon on 10 April.

CHILOÉ WIGEON *Mareca sibilatrix* CHWIWELL MAGELLAN
GOWER: female at Gnoll Woods on 15 Jan.

RED-BILLED TEAL *Anas erythrorhyncha* CORHWYADEN BICOCH
DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy from 21 Sept. to 26 Oct.

LAUGHING DOVE *Spilopelia senegalensis* TURTUR CHWERTHINOG
PEMBROKE: St Brides on 27-30 June.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* ERYR EURAID
CEREDIGION: the escaped bird, nicknamed 'Eddie' and present in southern mid Wales since escaping from the Maesteg area in 2011, was seen on a number of dates around Cors Caron.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* BARCUD DU
One with jesses over Porthcawl and Lavernock Pt, E.GLAMORGAN, and Rhossili, GOWER, on 10 Sept.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo sp.* ERYRDYLLUAN SP.
PEMBROKE: Hundleton on 30 March and probably the same at several sites including Milton and near Jeffreyston on 10 June.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* PARACIT TORCHOG
This species has been moved from Category C to E, as there is no evidence that the population in Wales is self-sustaining nor that records in Wales are from a self-sustaining population elsewhere. This situation may well change, and so birders and county recorders are encouraged to report all sightings (see Facey and Vafidis 2020). There were 27 records on BirdTrack in 2019, compared to 10 in 2018.

GWENT: pair at Blackwood from May to Oct., but no evidence of breeding; E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 5 Sept.; GOWER: Fendrod Lake on five dates between 10 Nov. and 28 Dec.; Llansamlet on 1 Dec.; DENBIGH: Wrexham on 11 April; FLINT: Llanasa on 24 Nov., and two here on 1 Dec.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus* COCATIL
CARMARTHEN: Pwll on 7 Oct.

YELLOW-CROWNED BISHOP *Euplectes afer* ESGOB EURAID
MEIRIONNYDD: Talsarnau on 10 July.

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Ringing report for Wales 2019

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Ringing trends

It is really good to see the pulli totals continuing to increase and in 2018, hitting an all-time high. This provides an exact origin and date for the birds that fledge, which further enriches the data. The increase in the pulli totals were not enough to compensate for the drop in fully grown birds (FG) compared to 2019, but the total number of birds ringed in Wales was surpassed only by that year.

Year	Full grown	Pulli	Total
2019	58,223	22,357	80,579
2018	61,147	20,428	81,575
2017	58,824	20,296	79,120
2016	57,687	18,931	76,618
2015	53,189	21,200	74,389
2014	54,532	19,637	74,169
2013	42,070	15,815	57,885
2012	34,209	15,548	49,757
2011	43,502	16,830	60,332
2010	44,563	18,421	62,984
2009	32,486	14,932	47,418
2008	27,892	15,394	43,286
2007	26,254	16,269	42,523
2006	23,416	17,491	40,907
2005	27,793	16,596	44,389
2004	27,158	16,361	43,519
2003	24,737	14,405	39,142
2002	25,442	13,761	39,203
2001	16,727	8,298	25,025
2000	14,588	9,462	24,050
Totals	**754,439**	**332,432**	**1,086,870**

Summary of the number of full grown birds and pulli ringed, 2000-19.

In line with the whole of Britain and Ireland, Blue Tit was the most ringed bird in Wales in 2019. This rarely changes, but looking at the differences between years can provide a greater insight into annual variations per species.

It was an amazing year for ringing Brambling in 2018 but things returned to more usual numbers in 2019. This meant Brambling showed the greatest decrease in the numbers ringed (-1250), reflecting a great year in 2018 rather than a particular paucity in 2019. Numbers of Swallow ringed also decreased from the previous year (-980), followed by Starling (-562) which is a Red-listed Bird of Conservation Concern. Numbers of Goldfinch ringed had been increasing each year since 2011 (except for a small drop in 2015) so it was a surprise to see such a decrease in the numbers ringed this year (-777).

Numbers of Dunlin ringed in 2018 were particularly low, but returned to more usual levels in 2019 (+1432), which is more in line with the 2013-19 trend. The second greatest change in number of birds ringed in 2019 was Pied Flycatcher (+1103). This was mainly driven by an increase of 1025 pulli being ringed, making

Ringing totals	2018			2019			Year total
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	difference
Brent Goose	24	0	24	28	0	28	4
Canada Goose	199	0	199	180	45	225	26
Greylag Goose	14	0	14	9	0	9	-5
Mute Swan	38	45	83	13	57	70	-13
Whooper Swan	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Shelduck	64	0	64	17	0	17	-47
Mandarin Duck	0	0	0	4	0	4	4
Mallard	24	7	31	19	11	30	-1
Teal	10	0	10	12	0	12	2
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Common Scoter	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Goosander	10	0	10	4	0	4	-6
Red Grouse	6	0	6	5	0	5	-1
Grey Partridge	4	0	4	0	0	0	-4
Storm Petrel	1174	12	1186	1049	23	1072	-114
Leach's Petrel	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Fulmar	0	3	3	2	3	5	2
Manx Shearwater	3643	702	4345	3434	612	4046	-299
Little Grebe	2	0	2	7	0	7	5
Grey Heron	3	10	13	1	6	7	-6
Little Egret	0	0	0	0	8	8	8
Gannet	32	0	32	35	0	35	3
Shag	8	303	311	9	415	424	113
Cormorant	0	322	322	0	272	272	-50
Osprey	0	10	10	0	11	11	1
Honey-buzzard	0	1	1	0	2	2	1
Sparrowhawk	18	9	27	32	7	39	12
Goshawk	1	59	60	0	38	38	-22
Hen Harrier	0	12	12	0	12	12	0
Red Kite	2	10	12	1	5	6	-6
Buzzard	7	9	16	7	5	12	-4
Water Rail	8	0	8	15	0	15	7
Moorhen	13	4	17	1	0	1	-16
Coot	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Oystercatcher	746	34	780	348	18	366	-414
Lapwing	89	32	121	22	8	30	-91
Golden Plover	63	0	63	157	0	157	94
Grey Plover	0	0	0	4	0	4	4
Ringed Plover	215	8	223	279	13	292	69
Little Ringed Plover	0	5	5	0	2	2	-3
Kentish Plover	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Dotterel	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Whimbrel	45	0	45	86	0	86	41
Curlew	52	4	56	125	3	128	72
Bar-tailed Godwit	31	0	31	7	0	7	-24

Ringing totals	2018			2019			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Black-tailed Godwit	2	0	2	4	0	4	2
Turnstone	34	0	34	200	0	200	166
Knot	28	0	28	122	0	122	94
Ruff	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Curlew Sandpiper	1	0	1	6	0	6	5
Sanderling	9	0	9	37	0	37	28
Dunlin	1782	0	1782	3214	0	3214	1432
Purple Sandpiper	3	0	3	1	0	1	-2
Little Stint	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Woodcock	564	0	564	684	0	684	120
Jack Snipe	88	0	88	48	0	48	-40
Snipe	229	0	229	155	0	155	-74
Common Sandpiper	11	2	13	21	5	26	13
Green Sandpiper	0	0	0	8	0	8	8
Redshank	381	0	381	399	0	399	18
Greenshank	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Kittiwake	34	29	63	24	18	42	-21
Black-headed Gull	75	138	213	64	285	349	136
Great Black-backed Gull	37	111	148	18	160	178	30
Herring Gull	118	567	685	54	591	645	-40
Lesser Black-backed Gull	155	465	620	215	277	492	-128
Sandwich Tern	18	0	18	40	124	164	146
Little Tern	39	212	251	45	274	319	68
Common Tern	15	604	619	11	588	599	-20
Arctic Tern	5	845	850	9	642	651	-199
Guillemot	29	871	900	107	964	1071	171
Razorbill	48	381	429	67	566	633	204
Little Auk	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Black Guillemot	0	5	5	0	3	3	-2
Puffin	122	42	164	68	57	125	-39
Stock Dove	16	66	82	14	29	43	-39
Woodpigeon	12	12	24	26	11	37	13
Turtle Dove	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Collared Dove	7	0	7	11	0	11	4
Cuckoo	14	0	14	9	0	9	-5
Barn Owl	33	583	616	27	347	374	-242
Tawny Owl	17	70	87	17	24	41	-46

Ringing totals	2018			2019			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Little Owl	3	9	12	1	4	5	-7
Long-eared Owl	0	4	4	2	0	2	-2
Short-eared Owl	0	11	11	2	0	2	-9
Nightjar	69	51	120	84	45	129	9
Swift	4	2	6	7	1	8	2
Kingfisher	16	0	16	30	0	30	14
Wryneck	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	208	0	208	152	0	152	-56
Green Woodpecker	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Kestrel	3	102	105	1	52	53	-52
Hobby	1	13	14	0	12	12	-2
Peregrine	0	15	15	0	16	16	1
Jay	58	0	58	44	0	44	-14
Magpie	24	3	27	9	0	9	-18
Chough	7	167	174	6	189	195	21
Jackdaw	84	98	182	50	122	172	-10
Rook	13	2	15	58	7	65	50
Carrion Crow	3	16	19	3	21	24	5
Raven	4	9	13	0	4	4	-9
Coal Tit	769	125	894	537	80	617	-277
Marsh Tit	43	26	69	30	46	76	7
Willow Tit	66	5	71	58	27	85	14
Blue Tit	6264	3237	9501	5504	3380	8884	-617
Great Tit	2474	1707	4181	2141	2073	4214	33
Skylark	116	3	119	68	2	70	-49
Sand Martin	213	25	238	284	10	294	56
Swallow	3511	598	4109	2447	682	3129	-980
House Martin	41	5	46	129	14	143	97
Cetti's Warbler	117	2	119	111	2	113	-6
Long-tailed Tit	659	0	659	756	7	763	104
Willow Warbler	1728	12	1740	1649	22	1671	-69
Chiffchaff	1880	0	1880	2541	4	2545	665
Wood Warbler	17	48	65	8	92	100	35
Yellow-browed Warbler	7	0	7	6	0	6	-1
Greenish Warbler	1	0	1	2	0	2	1
Sedge Warbler	2167	6	2173	1468	1	1469	-704

Ringing totals	2018			2019			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Aquatic Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Reed Warbler	1790	17	1807	1359	22	1381	-426
Blyth's Reed Warbler	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Melodious Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Marsh Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Grasshopper Warbler	42	0	42	49	0	49	7
Blackcap	2458	20	2478	2600	23	2623	145
Garden Warbler	164	1	165	148	4	152	-13
Lesser Whitethroat	46	0	46	39	0	38	39
Whitethroat	277	0	277	388	10	398	121
Western Orphean Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Subalpine Warbler sp.	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Firecrest	9	0	9	15	0	15	6
Goldcrest	895	0	895	1698	0	1698	803
Wren	1020	63	1083	1045	91	1136	53
Nuthatch	150	234	384	149	272	421	37
Treecreeper	131	5	136	96	13	109	-27
Starling	1448	30	1478	569	28	597	-881
Ring Ouzel	0	0	0	3	4	7	7
Blackbird	1137	141	1278	999	140	1139	-139
Fieldfare	97	0	97	173	0	173	76
Redwing	2151	0	2151	2888	0	2888	737
Song Thrush	255	48	303	298	92	390	87
Mistle Thrush	17	0	17	5	4	9	-8
Spotted Flycatcher	93	27	120	76	36	112	-8
Robin	1146	55	1201	1242	90	1332	131
Bluethroat	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Pied Flycatcher	506	5445	5951	584	6470	7054	1103
Red-breasted Flycatcher	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Black Redstart	1	0	1	3	0	3	2
Redstart	66	363	429	68	406	474	45
Whinchat	4	73	77	6	132	138	61
Stonechat	43	19	62	88	16	104	42
Isabelline Wheatear	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Wheatear	114	11	125	136	24	160	35
Dipper	75	648	723	81	587	668	-55
House Sparrow	821	115	936	598	170	768	-168

Ringing totals	2018			2019			Year total
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	difference
Tree Sparrow	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Dunnock	867	46	913	959	30	989	76
Yellow Wagtail	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Grey Wagtail	18	50	68	39	120	159	91
Pied Wagtail	114	36	150	150	59	209	59
(White Wagtail)	18	0	18	37	0	37	19
Meadow Pipit	791	18	809	1138	20	1158	349
Tree Pipit	20	6	26	36	3	39	13
Rock Pipit	20	0	20	58	1	59	39
Chaffinch	2025	10	2035	1782	15	1797	-238
Brambling	1626	0	1626	376	0	376	-1250
Hawfinch	319	0	319	222	0	222	-97
Bullfinch	393	5	398	410	7	417	19
Common Rosefinch	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Greenfinch	566	7	573	695	0	695	122
Twite	52	0	52	12	0	12	-40
Linnet	671	18	689	262	5	267	-422
Lesser Redpoll	585	0	585	663	0	663	78
Common Redpoll	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Redpoll (Common/Lesser)	37	0	37	54	0	54	17
Common Crossbill	11	0	11	2	0	2	-9
Red-eyed Vireo	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Goldfinch	3555	5	3560	2778	5	2783	-777
Siskin	2766	3	2769	2725	1	2726	-43
Yellowhammer	108	0	108	63	0	63	-45
Reed Bunting	567	4	571	518	1	519	-52
TOTALS	**61,147**	**20,428**	**81,575**	**58,223**	**22,357**	**80,579**	

it the most ringed pulli species in 2019. Great Tit pulli (+366) and Blue Tit pulli (+143) also did well, which may be due to increased food availability at the pulli stage.

It is hard to differentiate between changes in bird demography and ringer effort, so two BTO schemes try to standardise 'effort', and give information on adult survival, productivity and abundance. These schemes are the Constant Effort Site (CES) and Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS). In 2019, there were 10 CES registered in Wales with Llangorse in Breconshire, Kenfig in East Glamorgan and Penclacwydd in Carmarthenshire being among the longest running. Ideally five more CE sites are needed for the BTO to produce Welsh specific population trends. Wales does very well for the number of RAS studies compared to the number of ringers. There were 23 RAS studies that operated in 2019, consisting of Pied Flycatcher (six), Dipper (three), Siskin (two), Reed Warbler (two) and single studies of Common Tern, Kittiwake, House Sparrow, Linnet, Shag, Reed Bunting, Arctic Tern, Wheatear, Hawfinch and Razorbill.

Number of birds ringed per species

The number of full grown and pulli of each species ringed in 2019 are compared to 2018. The table (pages 198-201) do not show 'controls', birds captured that had been ringed previously. The ringing totals above are derived from the BTO database and similar numbers can be seen on the online Ringing Report: **www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports.**

2019 selected recoveries

Below is a small selection of recoveries that stand out from the 22,013 re-encounters (recaptures, resightings or birds found dead) in 2019. The reports of note either involve long distances travelled, unusual species or longevity. Ringers are most likely to find a ringed bird, however reports from non-ringers are also very important, particularly in areas less covered by ringers. Rings and colour rings can also be read on live birds by members of the public, helping to 'fill in the gap' of the bird's life history. To report a ringed bird, go to **www.ring.ac**; you will receive details of the bird including where and when the bird was ringed.

Codes used in the recoveries:

M	Male
F	Female
Pull.	Ringed as a pullus (nestling)
2	Fully-grown, year of hatching unknown
3(3J)	Hatched during the current calendar year (in juvenile plumage)
4	Hatched before the current calendar year, exact year unknown
5	Hatched during the previous calendar year
6	Hatched before the previous calendar year, exact year unknown
7	Hatched two years ago
8	At least three years, exact year unknown

Note that the report uses administrative areas, rather than the vice-county recording areas used elsewhere in the *Welsh Bird Report*.

Osprey (1469438)

02/07/2014 Black Isle, Highland (Pull.)
19/04/2019 Cantref Reservoir, Powys
50km S 4y 9m 17d Sick or wounded. Left wing problems. In care

Ringed Plover (T009121)

21/06/2016 Beltringharder Koog, **Germany** 54° 31'N 8° 54'E (Pull.)
08/09/2019 Llanfairfechan, Conwy
01/11/2019 Glan-y-Môr Elias, Gwynedd
857km W 3y 4m 11d Colour ring sighting

Ringed Plover (T009166)

03/06/2019 Beltringharder Koog, **Germany** 54° 31'N 8° 54'E (Pull.)
30/08/2019 Kenfig Sands, Bridgend
910km WSW 0y 2m 27d Colour ring sighting

Ringed Plover (NV69430)

04/09/2016 Llanfairfechan, Conwy (4)
11/05/2019 Preverenges, Vaud, **Switzerland** 46°31'N 6°31'E
1061km SE 2y 8m 7d Colour ring sighting. First record to Switzerland

Dunlin (BT88457)

27/08/2018 Ynyslas National Nature Reserve, Borth, Ceredigion (3)
20/02/2019 Djoudj National Park, **Senegal** 16°23'N 16°16'W
4151km WSW 0y 5m 24d Colour ring sighting. Third record to Senegal

Kittiwake (ET41768)

10/07/1999 Puffin Island, Anglesey (Pull.)
25/05/2019 Puffin Island, Anglesey
0km - 19y 10m 15d Colour ring sighting. Longevity record is 28y 6m 5d

Black-headed Gull (LS02587)

12/03/2017 Jakusevec, Zagreb, **Croatia** 45°45'N 16°1'E (6)
25/09/2019 Cardiff
1540km ESE 2y 6m 13d Colour ring sighting. 28th to Croatia

Common Tern (4H65734)

06/04/2013	La Somone, **Senegal** 14°28'N 17°4'W (4)		
23/06/2016	The Skerries, Anglesey.		
06/07/2019	The Skerries, Anglesey		
11/08/2019	Seaforth Nature Reserve, Merseyside		
	2669km NNE	6y 3m 0d	Colour ring sighting. 38th from Senegal

Guillemot (T73190)

22/06/1989	Ynys Gwylan Islands, Gwynedd (Pull.)		
27/10/2019	Llanbedrog, near Pwllheli, Gwynedd		
	17kmENE	30y 4m 5d	Found long dead on beach

Puffin (EJ09018)

26/06/1977	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire (8)		
17/07/2019	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire		
	0km -	42y 0m 21d	Colour ring sighting. A new longevity record.

Nightjar (LJ75298)

04/08/2018	Rhyd Galed, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire (Pull.)		
13/06/2019	Thorne Moors, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire		
	182km ENE	0y 10m 9d	Caught by ringer

Great Spotted Woodpecker (RK96101)

17/03/2008	Nantmel, near Rhayader, Powys (4M)		
15/04/2019	Nantmel, near Rhayader, Powys. 8 other captures		
	0km -	11y 0m 29d	Caught by ringer. Longevity record is 11yrs 10m 21d

Chough (ES27383)

27/05/1996	Near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion (Pull.)		
07/06/2019	Near Llanrhystud, Ceredigion		
	12km -	23y 0m 11d	Colour ring sighting. A new longevity record.

House Martin (AVH0579)

08/08/2019	Abergynolwyn, Gwynedd (4F)		
18/09/2019	Durleston, Dorset		
	231km SSE	0y 1m 10d	Killed by cat

Cetti's Warbler (X789016)

21/07/2010	Llangorse Lake, Powys (3J)		
25/05/2019	Llangorse Lake, Powys		
	0km -	8y 10m 4d	Caught by ringer. Longevity record is 9yrs 3m 28d

Chiffchaff (X63325)

04/10/2018	Charrito - Silves, Faro, **Portugal** 37°10'N 8°26W (3)		
12/04/2019	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire		
	1634km N	0y 6m 8d	Caught by ringer. 16th from Portugal

Wood Warbler (D506547)

18/06/2013	Wentwood Forest, Newport (Pull.)		
10/06/2019	Wentwood Forest, Newport		
	0km -	5y 11m 23d	Caught by ringer. Longevity record is 6yrs 11m 24d

Reed Warbler (AJB5659)

27/01/2018	Kartong, **The Gambia** 13° 4'N 16° 44'W (4)		
14/07/2018	Magor Marsh, Monmouth		
17/07/2019	Magor Marsh, Monmouth		
	4460km NNE	1y 5m 20d	Caught by ringer. 5th from The Gambia

Reed Warbler (Z972842)

08/08/2019	Llyn Ystumllyn, Gwynedd (3J)		
27/08/2019	Kingsdown, Box, Wiltshire		
	215km SE	0y 0m 19d	Fresh dead. Hit glass barrier on decking

Starling (KH07786)

12/06/2015	Ventes Ragas, Silutes, **Lithuania** 55°20'N 21°11'E (4)		
10/12/2019	Llangwyllog, Anglesey		
	1662km E	4y 5m 28d	Found dead on road with *c.*200 Starlings

Pied Flycatcher (X062920)

12/06/2010	Near Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Denbighshire (Pull.)		
11/06/2019	Glyn Arthur, Denbighshire. 8 other captures		
	9km SE	8y 11m 30d	Caught by ringer. Longevity record is 9yrs 7d

Dipper (RF79570)

16/04/2012	Beaufort Pond, Angidy, Monmouthshire (Pull.)		
11/04/2019	Beaufort Pond, Angidy, Monmouthshire		
	0km -	6y 11m 26d	Caught by ringer at nest. Longevity record is 8yrs 9m 6d

Dunnock (VZ55881)

26/01/2018	Blue House Farm, North Fambridge, Essex (6)		
07/04/2019	Tal Goed Nursery, Conwy		
	351km WNW	1y 2m 12d	Caught by ringer

Chaffinch (KA68568)

01/10/2019	Zelenogradskiy district, **Russia** 55°4'N 20°43'E (3F)		
03/11/2019	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire		
	1568km W	0y 1m 2d	Caught by ringer

Hawfinch (BV23684)

12/04/2010	Near Livox, Tintern, Monmouthshire (5F)		
03/05/2019	Near Livox, Tintern, Monmouthshire		
	0km -	9y 0m 21d	Caught by ringer. Longevity record is 10yrs 4d

Twite (Z156799)

18/02/2015	Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire (5M)		
04/03/2019	Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire. 23 other sightings		
	0km -	4y 0m 14d	Colour ring sighting. Longevity record is 6yrs 7m 11d

Siskin (CB28425)

10/03/2018	Tartu, **Estonia** 58°22'N 26°44'E (4M)		
14/02/2019	Upper Caerddu, Howey, Powys		
	2020km WSW	0y 11m 4d	Caught by ringer. 3rd record from Estonia

Reed Bunting (L531132)

08/08/2010	Teifi Marsh, Ceredigion (3)		
04/12/2019	Teifi Marsh, Ceredigion. 7 other captures		
	0km -	9y 3m 26d	Caught by ringer

Dunlin (Jonathan Bull)

Birds ringed in Wales that were found outside Britain and Ireland in 2019 (from due north, clockwise): 1. Ringed Plover (RP, Switzerland). 2. Dunlin (DN, Senegal). Map produced in DMAP.

Pied Flycatcher (Cameron Sharp)

Birds ringed outside Britain and Ireland - that were found in Wales in 2019 (from due north, clockwise): 1. Siskin (SK, Estonia). 2 Starling (SG, Lithuania). 3. Chaffinch (CH, Russia). 4 and 5. Ringed Plover (RP, Germany). 6. Black-headed Gull (BH, Croatia). 7. Chiffchaff (CC, Portugal). 8. Reed Warbler (RW, The Gambia). 9. Common Tern (CN, Senegal). Map produced in QGIS.

Nest Record Scheme

This scheme records the progress of individual bird nesting attempts over time and provides vital information on how many fledglings are produced. Linked with environmental data, this can help identify the causes of population declines. Anyone can be a nest recorder and those who do follow a code of conduct to make sure that recording this information minimises disturbance at nests. Being a nest recorder gives a greater understanding of where birds nest, and their habits and behaviours.

Since 2010, the Welsh nest record total has increased on average by 233 nests every year and 2019 showed an increase of 169 nests, to a total of 5284 nests. There are some fantastic nest-box projects in Wales and this is shown in the nest record totals with Blue Tit (1330) being the most recorded species, followed by Pied Flycatcher (764) and Great Tit (741). In addition, it is good to see Little Tern (215) contributing most of the British & Irish nest recorded totals for 2019 (232).

Every nest record contributes to our knowledge of bird productivity, especially when found early in its development, and so includes first egg date, clutch size, number hatched and the nest outcome. Single nest records of Honey-buzzard, Long-eared Owl and Ring Ouzel were welcome additions but it is also good to see two Firecrest and Merlin records.

It takes several years to qualify as a ringer, due to the amount of information that needs to be learned and to ensure high standards of bird welfare. Nest recorders are also highly skilled in monitoring nests. We are grateful to the ringers and nest recorders who have given up their time to study and monitor wild birds.

Number of nest records for Wales per species in 2019: 5284 nests of 92 species:

Species	No. records		Species	No. records		Species	No. records
Canada Goose	10		Long-eared Owl	1		Goldcrest	2
Mute Swan	8		Nightjar	18		Wren	54
Mallard	4		Swift	1		Nuthatch	100
Tufted Duck	2		Great Sp. Woodpecker	12		Treecreeper	8
Little Grebe	2		Kestrel	12		Starling	7
Great Crested Grebe	3		Merlin	2		Ring Ouzel	1
Osprey	4		Hobby	5		Blackbird	176
Honey-buzzard	1		Peregrine	24		Song Thrush	92
Sparrowhawk	2		Jay	3		Mistle Thrush	13
Goshawk	44		Magpie	2		Spotted Flycatcher	15
Hen Harrier	5		Chough	28		Robin	45
Red Kite	123		Jackdaw	15		Pied Flycatcher	764
Buzzard	7		Raven	13		Redstart	100
Moorhen	7		Coal Tit	22		Whinchat	3
Coot	68		Marsh Tit	6		Stonechat	16
Oystercatcher	7		Willow Tit	1		Wheatear	6
Lapwing	1		Blue Tit	1330		Dipper	137
Golden Plover	1		Great Tit	741		House Sparrow	69
Ringed Plover	17		Skylark	4		Tree Sparrow	1
Little Ringed Plover	4		Swallow	183		Dunnock	27
Common Sandpiper	1		House Martin	9		Grey Wagtail	33
Kittiwake	141		Long-tailed Tit	25		Pied Wagtail	24
Black-headed Gull	6		Willow Warbler	26		Meadow Pipit	27
Herring Gull	22		Chiffchaff	8		Tree Pipit	3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	34		Wood Warbler	34		Chaffinch	15
Little Tern	215		Reed Warbler	3		Bullfinch	6
Stock Dove	32		Grasshopper Warbler	1		Linnet	20
Woodpigeon	34		Blackcap	20		Goldfinch	8
Collared Dove	3		Garden Warbler	6		Yellowhammer	3
Barn Owl	131		Whitethroat	1		Reed Bunting	1
Tawny Owl	11		Firecrest	2			

Savi's Warbler breeding on Anglesey, a first for Wales

Ian Hawkins
RSPB Cors Ddyga nature reserve, Gaerwen, Anglesey LL60 6LB

Savi's Warbler (J. Martin Jones)

On 14 June 2019, while doing an early morning bird survey, Ken Maurice reported a singing Savi's Warbler approximately halfway along the visitor trail at RSPB Cors Ddyga nature reserve. News was shared with a few local birders and its identity was quickly confirmed. Unusually, perhaps, for a Savi's Warbler, it was singing in a small block of reed and showing reasonably well.

Most early visitors had good views, and several were able to obtain good photographs. On 16 June it moved a few hundred metres north and started singing from a willow snag along an old hedge line between two areas of swamp. Although a little farther away from the path, it often showed remarkably well and was enjoyed by a steady stream of birdwatchers. It remained in this area until the last sighting on 25 July, although by the second week of July it was singing less frequently.

Jim Parry, a local volunteer, would often visit the reserve early in the morning and spend time watching the bird. On 14 July, Jim's vigilance was rewarded when he saw a second bird, rapidly fanning its wings and tail on a perch just below the male. A breeding attempt was suspected. On 16 July a bird was seen carrying a faecal sac, and on the 18th a bird was seen carrying food. This is the first evidence of Savi's Warbler breeding in Wales, and all the more remarkable that the male showed so well and was enjoyed by so many people.

Savi's Warbler breeds locally across Central Asia and Europe, including in very small numbers in Britain, and winters in tropical Africa. During 1950-2019, there were 824 records in Britain (Holt *et al*. 2020), but numbers have fallen since the peak during 1970-84, when up to 30 singing males were recorded in a year (Slack 2009). There have, however, been only eight previous records in Wales, since the first on 31 October 1968, on Skokholm in Pembrokeshire (which remains the latest ever autumn record in Britain). Three of the nine records were at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth), Gwent, in 2014, 2016 and 2019. There has been one previous record in North Wales, on 8-11 June 1999, also at RSPB Cors Ddyga, which was then known as Malltraeth Marsh (Pritchard *et al*., in press).

References

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Pritchard, R., Hughes, J., Spence, I.M., Haycock, B. and Brenchley, A. In press. *The Birds of Wales*. Liverpool University Press.

Slack, R. 2009: *Rare Birds where and when: an analysis of status and distribution in Britain and Ireland.* Rare Bird Books.

Extreme migration dates and winter records for selected summer visitors 2000-19

Julian Hughes

The annual *Welsh Bird Report* has, in recent years, routinely featured the earliest and latest migration dates for common migrant species. These are of ornithological interest and may be of some limited phenological interest, although the extreme dates are not necessarily typical of average arrival dates. The tables below show the extreme dates obtained from *Welsh Bird Reports* during 2000-19, although migration dates for some species were not published consistently in 2000-02, so information was supplemented with additional information from county recorders where possible.

Generally, tables show records between March and November, but for Common Tern, Sand Martin, Swallow and Wheatear, dates outside this period are shown in the table as there is good evidence that these individuals were arriving or departing migrants. So far as possible, all known winter (December to February) records are shown below each table. The most extreme date in each season, for each species, in Wales is shown in bold.

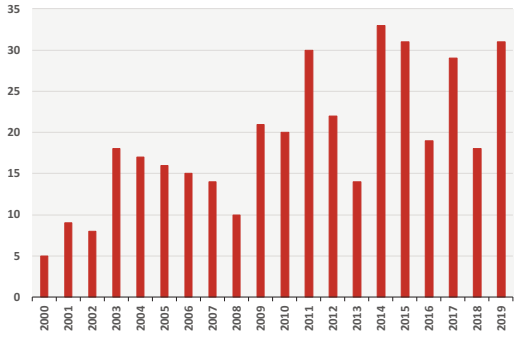

Fig. 1. Numbers of earliest spring records each year.

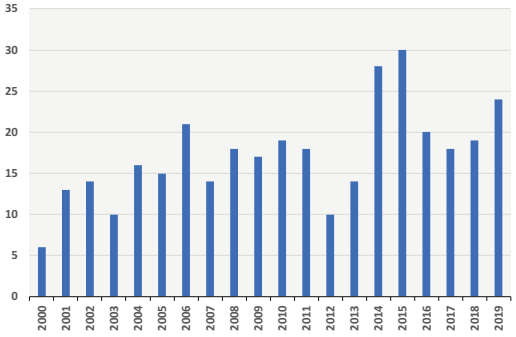

Fig. 2. Numbers of latest autumn records each year.

The charts above use the data from each of the 25 species shown in the tables and each of the 14 Welsh recording areas where dates were available (Little Tern records for Radnorshire were too infrequent to derive meaningful data). Figures 1 and 2 show the number of earliest spring and latest autumn county records respectively in each year, i.e. if the earliest sighting of a species in a county during the 20 year period was in 2000, it registers as one record in the spring chart for that year, and so on.

In theory, one should expect the data to be spread fairly evenly across the 20 year period, but the trend towards more 'earliest' and, to a lesser extent, 'latest' records in the later years shows that the 'records' have been broken more frequently in recent times. There are caveats, including some data being less readily available in 2000-02 and the increased levels of reporting by birdwatchers, indicated (and aided) by BirdTrack participation, especially in the second half of this period. However, to provide wider context, authors reviewing historic data for publication in the forthcoming book *The Birds of Wales* found that most extreme dates since recording began in Wales occurred during 2000-19.

GARGANEY

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	21 March 2009	Peterstone Gout		12 Oct. 2000	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	**12 March 2015**	**Kenfig**		8 Oct. 2017	Roath Park lake
GOWER	**12 March 2015**	**Kenfig rivermouth**		14 Nov. 2014	Llanrhidian
CARMARTHEN	20 March 2011	Penclacwydd		21 Nov. 2006	Bethlehem
PEMBROKE	19 March 2009	St Davids		**28 Nov. 2005**	**Skomer**
CEREDIGION	17 March 2015	RSPB Ynys-hir		16 Nov. 2002	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	18 March 2009	Brechfa Pool		11 Sept. 2004	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	22 March 2006	Lymore		1 Nov. 2009	Dolydd Hafren
RADNOR	27 March 2009	Rhosgoch		30 Aug. 2013	Llowes
MEIRIONNYDD	9 April 2015	Ynysmaengwyn		23 Sept. 2003	Glaslyn Pools
CAERNARFON	10 April 2004	Dinas Dinlle		18 Sept. 2015	Morfa Aber
ANGLESEY	23 March 2016	Malltraeth Cob		8 Nov. 2010	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	25 March 2016	RSPB Conwy		25 Oct. 2002	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	22 March 2003	Padeswood		28 Oct. 2006	Point of Ayr

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.): GOWER: male at Gnoll Pond from 14 May to 31 Dec. 2019; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd from 1 Feb. to 19 April 2007; FLINT: Point of Ayr on 6 December 2006.

SWIFT

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	6 April 2015	Newport Wetlands		5 Oct. 2015	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	**21 March 2010**	**Porthcawl**		29 Oct. 2015	Lavernock Pt
GOWER	25 March 2012	Rhossili Down		2 Oct. 2003	Eglwys Nunydd Res.
CARMARTHEN	15 April 2003	Dinefwr Park		22 Oct. 2002	Cydweli
PEMBROKE	10 April 2008	Skomer		1 Oct. 2000	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	6 April 2005	Devil's Bridge		**14 Nov. 2014**	**Clarach**
BRECON	18 April 2006	Llangorse Lake		22 Oct. 2011	Beacons Res.
MONTGOMERY	28 March 2005	William Condry reserve		5 Sept. 2006 and 2019	Adfa (2006) and Dolydd Hafren (2019)
RADNOR	20 April 2003 and 2011	Builth Road (2003) and New-bridge (2011)		17 Sept. 2008	Glasbury
MEIRIONNYDD	16 April 2019	Ynysfor		22 Sept. 2019	Broadwater
CAERNARFON	18 April 2014	Ysbyty Ifan		31 Oct. 2011	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	16 April 2012 and 2015	Llyn Llywenan (2012) and RSPB South Stack (2015)		8 Nov. 2018	Pt Lynas
DENBIGH	11 April 2018	RSPB Conwy		25 Sept. 2019	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	15 April 2015	Rhuddlan		15 Sept. 2015	Bagillt

CUCKOO

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	30 March 2012	Newport Wetlands		14 Sept. 2008	Saltmarsh Lane, Newport
E.GLAMORGAN	2 April 2006	Llanilid		25 Sept. 2015	near Cwm Nash
GOWER	4 April 2013	Cwm Dulais		10 Aug. 2007	Thurba/Red Chamber
CARMARTHEN	26 March 2002	Burry Port		7 Oct. 2015	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	**13 March 2004**	**Pembroke Mill Pond**		**11 Nov. 2003**	**Mynachlog-ddu**
CEREDIGION	28 March 2012	Cwm Einion		22 Aug. 2010	Pontrhydfendigaid
BRECON	2 April 2019	Mynydd Illtud		4 Sept. 2019	Llangasty Meadows
MONTGOMERY	2 April 2014	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy		6 Aug. 2014	Hafren Forest
RADNOR	2 April 2002	Glasbury		30 Aug. 2018	Painscastle
MEIRIONNYDD	10 April 2007	Llanuwchllyn		28 Aug. 2019	Dinas Mawddwy
CAERNARFON	8 April 2001	Bardsey		12 Sept. 2018	Llyn Idwal
ANGLESEY	10 April 2011	Mynydd Bodafon		26 Aug. 2016	Penysarn
DENBIGH	1 April 2012	Penycae		8 Sept. 2008	Llandrillo-yn-Rhos
FLINT	15 April 2016	Cilcain		16 Aug. 2015	Point of Ayr

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	6 March 2010	Newport Wetlands		21 Sept. 2018	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	15 March 2006	Llanilid		19 Oct. 2008	Ogmore est.
GOWER	3 March 2010	Upper Loughor est.		8 Sept. 2010	Wernffrwd
CARMARTHEN	**2 March 2018**	**Ro-fawr**		27 Sept. 2018	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	23 March 2013	West Angle		3 Sept. 2010	Nevern est.
CEREDIGION	16 March 2011	Tŷ Gwyn pools		18 Oct. 2008	Dyfi estuary
BRECON	17 March 2010	Llangasty		5 Sept. 2010	Brechfa Pool
MONTGOMERY	9 March 2014	Dolydd Hafren		15 Oct. 2014	Dolydd Hafren
RADNOR	15 March 2009	Glasbury		2 Sept. 2019	Glasbury
MEIRIONNYDD	19 March 2009	Llyn Trawsfynydd		22 Aug. 2014	Llyn Trawsfynydd
CAERNARFON	23 March 2016	Morfa Madryn		29 Aug. 2011	Foryd
ANGLESEY	26 March 2017	RSPB Cors Ddyga		3 Oct. 2019	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	24 March 2006	Marford		6 Sept. 2016	Llay Pool
FLINT	14 March 2018	Buckley		**7 Nov. 2017**	**Buckley**

SANDWICH TERN

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	31 March 2014	Newport Wetlands		4 Oct. 2009	Sudbrook
E.GLAMORGAN	**3 March 2011**	**Cardiff foreshore**		16 Nov. 2007	Cardiff Bay
GOWER	**3 March 2017**	**Wernffrwd**		17 Nov. 2007	south of Fall Bay
CARMARTHEN	18 March 2017	Pembrey Burrows		2 Nov. 2006	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	**3 March 2012**	**Gann est.**		**26 Nov. 2000**	**Fishguard Harbour**
CEREDIGION	6 March 2004	Aberystwyth		**26 Nov. 2011**	**Ynyslas**
BRECON	20 March 2012	Usk Res.		2 Oct. 2011	Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	7 May 2003	Garreg Ddu Res.		30 Sept. 2010	Llandrindod Lake
MONTGOMERY	16 April 2012	Upper Dyfi est.		22 Sept. 2018	Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	19 March 2010	Porthmadog Cob		14 Oct. 2006	Tonfanau
CAERNARFON	9 March 2005	Criccieth & Chwiliog		11 Nov. 2002	Criccieth
ANGLESEY	11 March 2012	Cemlyn		24 Nov. 2009 and 2014	Holyhead Bay (2009) and Moelfre (2014)
DENBIGH	**3 March 2009**	**Borras**		2 Nov. 2004	Kinmel Bay
FLINT	30 March 2006	Point of Ayr		28 Oct. 2007	Point of Ayr

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.): E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool on 10 Dec. 2015; GOWER: Port Eynon Pt on 15 Feb. 2018; PEMBROKE: Fishguard Harbour on 19 Jan. 2009 and possibly same in Broadhaven on 2 Feb. 2009; two off Strumble Head on 19 Dec. 2014; Fishguard Harbour on 11-15 Dec. 2019; CEREDIGION: two in Aberystwyth on 19 Dec. 2009; ANGLESEY: Holyhead Harbour on 1-7 Jan. 2001; two in Beddmanarch Bay on 21 Jan. 2008; Holyhead Bay on 20 Feb. 2014; FLINT: Rhyl on 1 Dec. 2019.

LITTLE TERN (no records for RADNOR)

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	22 April 2018	Newport Wetlands		6 Sept. 2005	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	23 April 2007	Kenfig		21 Oct. 2004	Porthcawl
GOWER	**15 March 2001**	**Blackpill**		12 Oct. 2000	Eglwys Nunydd Res.
CARMARTHEN	3 April 2018	Pembrey Harbour		13 Sept. 2019	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	14 April 2000	Abermawr		22 Oct. 2017	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	9 April 2006	Aberystwyth		**6 Nov. 2002**	**Aberporth**
BRECON	28 April 2005	Llangorse Lake		27 Sept. 2013	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	21 April 2003	William Condry reserve		14 Sept. 2004	William Condry reserve
MEIRIONNYDD	15 April 2006	Tonfanau		8 Oct. 2006	Mawddach est.
CAERNARFON	1 April 2016	Bardsey		16 Oct. 2016	Llanfairfechan
ANGLESEY	9 April 2003	Aberffraw		23 Oct. 2005	Penmon Pt
DENBIGH	2 May 2011	Kinmel Bay		11 Sept. 2013	Rhos on Sea
FLINT	7 April 2011	Gronant		12 Sept. 2017	Point of Ayr

COMMON TERN

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	8 April 2018	Bristol Channel		7 Oct. 2009	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	29 March 2006	Lamby Lake		18 Oct. 2007	Cardiff Bay
GOWER	2 April 2017	Whiteford Sands		3 Nov. 2006	Eglwys Nunydd Res.
CARMARTHEN	**20 March 2003**	**Penclacwydd**		6 Nov. 2005	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	30 March 2006	Carew-Cresswell		7 Nov. 2001	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	26 March 2010	Cors Caron		4 Nov. 2005	New Quay
BRECON	1 April 2018	Llangorse Lake		24 Oct. 2009	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	22 April 2011	Glasbury		24 Sept. 2010	Glasbury
MONTGOMERY	16 April 2013	Llyn Coed y Dinas		25 Aug. 2014	Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	7 April 2012	Harlech		31 Oct. 2018	Fairbourne
CAERNARFON	2 April 2006	Foryd		2 Dec. 2006	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	6 April 2019	Beddmanarch Bay		**17 Dec. 2006**	**Carmel Head**
DENBIGH	20 April 2013	RSPB Conwy		30 Sept. 2010	Towyn
FLINT	1 April 2006	Connah's Quay NR		3 Oct. 2017	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.) included in table.

ARCTIC TERN

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	16 April 2013	Peterstone Wentlooge & Llandegfedd Res.		12 Oct. 2004	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	13 April 2013	Cardiff Bay		25 Oct. 2004	Kenfig
GOWER	11 April 2015	Crymlyn Burrows		16 Nov. 2018	Loughor Bridge
CARMARTHEN	2 April 2014	Penclacwydd		30 Oct. 2011	Llansteffan
PEMBROKE	18 April 2018	Skokholm		6 Nov. 2005	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	6 April 2012	Ynyslas		4 Nov. 2005	New Quay
BRECON	9 April 2000	Llangorse Lake		9 Oct. 2014	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	15 April 2009	Llyn Coed y Dinas		14 Sept. 2010	Llyn Coed y Dinas
RADNOR	20 April 2014	Llyn Heilyn		31 Aug. 2008	Clyro
MEIRIONNYDD	**28 March 2006**	**Tonfanau**		25 Oct. 2011	Aberdysynni
CAERNARFON	5 April 2011	Llandudno		**Dec. 2009**	**Bardsey**[1]
ANGLESEY	12 April 2006	Pt Lynas		18 Nov. 2015	Holyhead harbour
DENBIGH	19 April 2013	RSPB Conwy		27 Oct. 2017	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	17 April 2017	Shotton		27 Oct. 2007	Point of Ayr

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.): CEREDIGION: one possible off Aberystwyth on 1 Dec. 2009; CAERNARFON: no final date was provided for the December 2009 bird on Bardsey(1), which was present from 25 Nov.

Sand Martin (Cameron Sharp)

SAND MARTIN

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	28 Feb. 2008 and 2019	Llandegfedd Res. (2008) and Usk (2019)		11 Oct. 2004	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	23 Feb. 2016	Kenfig Pool		3 Nov. 2000	R. Ely, Cardiff
GOWER	20 Feb. 2019	Cwm Ivy		1 Nov. 2015	Eglwys Nunydd Res.
CARMARTHEN	3 March 2008	Talley		31 Oct. 2010	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	**14 Feb. 2004**	**Pembroke Mill Pond**		**9 Nov. 2005**	**Gann est.**
CEREDIGION	1 March 2012	Teifi Marshes		7 Oct. 2009	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	4 March 2008	Llangorse Lake		26 Sept. 2012	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	7 March 2007	William Condry reserve		2 Oct. 2012	Dolydd Hafren
RADNOR	11 March 2003, 2011 and 2018	Glasbury (2003, 2018), Llowes (2011)		22 Sept. 2019	Llowes
MEIRIONNYDD	14 March 2009	Tonfanau		18 Sept. 2009	Talyllyn
CAERNARFON	16 Feb. 2019	Morfa Nefyn		18 Oct. 2003	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	3 March 2019	Llyn Cefni		27 Oct. 2009	Llyn Traffwll
DENBIGH	23 Feb. 2007	RSPB Conwy		27 Sept. 2012	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	28 Feb. 2019	Rhyl brickworks		18 Sept. 2009	Rhuddlan

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.) besides those shown in the table, all singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: on 4 Dec. 2005; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Cardiff Bay on 27 Feb. 2019 and 15 on 28th; PEMBROKE: Llangloffan Fen and Heathfield on 26 Feb. 2008; Fishguard on 27 Feb. 2011; Westfield Pill on 28 Feb. 2019; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 28 Feb. 2019.

SWALLOW

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	25 Feb. 2019	Newport Wetlands		4 Dec. 2019	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	23 Feb. 2007	Treforest Ind. Estate		18 Dec. 2019	Merthyr Mawr
GOWER	**16 Feb. 2019**	**Cwm Ivy Tor**		10 Dec. 2000	Neath Abbey
CARMARTHEN	14 March 2007	Penclacwydd		30 Nov. 2015	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	1 March 2005	Milford Haven		**22 Dec. 2008**	**Stackpole**
CEREDIGION	16 March 2009, 2014 and 2015	Cors Fochno (2009), Teifi Marshes (2014) and Ynyslas (2015)		17 Dec. 2001	Penrhyncoch
BRECON	6 March 2013	Craiglyn, Llanwrthwl		30 Oct. 2004 and 2008	Talyllyn (2004) and Brecon (2008)
MONTGOMERY	17 March 2004	William Condry reserve		25 Oct. 2015	Dolydd Hafren
RADNOR	20 March 2010	Clyro		7 Nov. 2001	St Harmon
MEIRIONNYDD	2 March 2019	Dyfi Junction		6 Nov. 2008	Tywyn
CAERNARFON	**16 Feb. 2002***	**Llanfaglan**		21 Dec. 2005	Caernarfon
ANGLESEY	24 Feb. 2019	Pt Lynas and Porth Eilian		21 Dec. 2003	Llangefni
DENBIGH	7 March 2019	RSPB Conwy		13 Dec. 2006	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	21 Feb. 2019	Bagillt		15 Dec. 2016	Rhyl

*possibly present from 13 Feb.

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.) besides those shown in the table, all singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Blackwood on 23 Jan. 2016; Newport Wetlands on 25 Feb. 2019 and on 4 Dec. 2019; E.GLAMORGAN: Penarth, Cardiff, on 6 Dec. 2006; Nash Pt on 11 Dec. 2007; GOWER: Gorseinon on 9 Dec. 2011; 1-2 at several sites in Feb. 2019; PEMBROKE: Bosherston on 2 Dec. 2000; St Davids on 1 and 9 Dec. 2004; Texaco Refinery on 31 Dec. 2004; four at Texaco refinery in Dec. 2004 to third week of Jan. 2005 then down to three (four ringed on 1 Jan. 2005); three at Amroth on 26-27 Jan. 2005; Bosherston on 7 Dec. 2007; three at Stackpole Farm on 9-11 and 22 Dec. 2008; St Anne's Head on 11 Dec. 2008; Pembroke Dock on 3, 12 and 24 Dec. 2008; Chevron refinery on 5 Jan. 2009 and another found dead owing to cold weather; two at Hundleston on 5-10 Dec. 2012; Stackpole on 4 Dec. 2016; Teifi Marshes on 8 Dec. 2019; ANGLESEY: Malltraeth on 10 Dec. 2000; two at Mona on 13 Dec. 2000; Llanfaelog on 12-16 Dec. 2000; three at Llangefni on 5-19 Dec. 2003 and two on 21st; Llanddyfnan on 25 Feb. 2019; RSPB Valley Wetlands on 11 Dec. 2019; Brynsiencyn on 17 Dec. 2019; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 13 Dec. 2013; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 9 Dec. 2001.

HOUSE MARTIN

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	24 Feb. 2019	Newport Wetlands		18 Nov. 2015	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	1 March 2014	Cardiff Bay		11 Nov. 2013	Penarth Head
GOWER	**8 Feb. 2004**	**Staple Pt**		16 Oct. 2005	Pitton Green
CARMARTHEN	**8 Feb. 2004**	**Laugharne**		16 Nov. 2016	Penlan Uchaf
PEMBROKE	6 March 2013	Strumble Head		18 Nov. 2007	Garron Pill
CEREDIGION	18 March 2010	Teifi Marshes		13 Oct. 2010	Llanon
BRECON	16 March 2017	Hay-on-Wye		29 Oct. 2019	Libanus
MONTGOMERY	23 March 2017	Cors Dyfi		25 Oct. 2015	Ceinws
RADNOR	5 April 2009	Elan Valley		22 Oct. 2015	Knighton
MEIRIONNYDD	29 March 2017	Pont Croesor		25 Oct. 2015	Ceinws
CAERNARFON	20 March 2005	Bardsey		18 Nov. 2002	Moel y Ci
ANGLESEY	19 Feb. 2019	Traeth Lligwy		16 Nov. 2006	Valley
DENBIGH	28 Feb. 2015	RSPB Conwy		16 Nov. 2013	Llansannan
FLINT	21 March 2014	Hope		**23 Nov. 2014**	**Hope**

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.) besides those shown in the table, all singles unless otherwise stated: PEMBROKE: Hakin on 29 Jan. 2002 (first Jan. record for Wales); Tenby on 29-31 Jan. 2016; CEREDIGION: two at New Quay on 16 Jan. 2007.

WOOD WARBLER

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	7 April 2005	Cwmcarn Forest		25 Aug. 2007	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	**1 April 2017**	**Fforest Farm**		16 Sept. 2009	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	12 April 2014	Waungaled Wood		**30 Sept. 2016**	**Rhossili**
CARMARTHEN	15 April 2009	Dinas		30 July 2017	Llanedi
PEMBROKE	13 April 2009	Bosherston		29 Sept. 2006	Skomer
CEREDIGION	26 March 2003	Cwmere		5 Sept. 2015	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	11 April 2012	Cathedine		7 Sept. 2008	Cwm Claisfer
RADNOR	10 April 2011	New Radnor		5 Sept. 2011	Llandrindod Wells
MONTGOMERY	18 April 2014, 2017 and 2018	Llanidloes (2014), Gorn Hill (2017) and Cwm Nant y Meichiad (2018)		7 Aug. 2012	Manafon
MEIRIONNYDD	18 April 2016 and 2018	Liberty Hall (2016), Llanelltyd and Dolmelynllyn (2018)		11 Aug. 2019	Castell y Bere
CAERNARFON	3 April 2005	Llyn Elsi		20 Sept. 2016	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	24 April 2008	Aberlleiniog		30 Aug. 2008	Carmel Head
DENBIGH	15 April 2011	World's End		27 Aug. 2017	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	18 April 2019	Rhydymwyn		31 July 2007	Shotwick Fields

WILLOW WARBLER

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	12 March 2017	Newport Wetlands		20 Oct. 2019	Redwick/Magor Pill
E.GLAMORGAN	**29 Feb. 2004**	**Bridgend**		29 Oct. 2018	West Aberthaw
GOWER	16 March 2015	Bracelet Bay		18 Oct. 2016	Mewslade Valley
CARMARTHEN	24 March 2003 and 2010	Penclacwydd (2003) and Pwll (2010)		12 Oct. 2001	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	16 March 2000	Cwm Cych		6 Nov. 2006	Porth Clais
CEREDIGION	16 March 2012	Aberystwyth		26 Oct. 2003	Aberystwyth
BRECON	24 March 2011 and 2012	Llangasty (2011) and Llwynfent Wood (2012)		25 Sept. 2008	Cwmgwdi
RADNOR	26 March 2009, 2011 and 2014	Cwmbach (2009), Bronydd (2011) and Llowes (2014)		23 Sept. 2019	Llowes
MONTGOMERY	23 March 2016	Dolydd Hafren		20 Oct. 2009	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	5 March 2013	Coed y brenin		1 Oct. 2016	Arthog
CAERNARFON	11 March 2019	Capel Curig		**19 Nov. 2016**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	17 March 2003	Penmon Pt		14 Nov. 2017	Llyn Cefni
DENBIGH	21 March 2004	Bersham Woods		14 Oct. 2014	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	2 March 2004	Talacre		25 Sept. 2011	Buckley and Caergwrle

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.): PEMBROKE: Monks Haven on 14 Feb. 2003; E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay on 14 Dec. 2016; MONTGOMERY: one with a damaged wing at Newtown STW in Dec. 2015; ANGLESEY: Bodffordd STW on 24-29 Jan. 2018.

SEDGE WARBLER

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	26 March 2014	Newport Wetlands		28 Oct. 2011	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	**18 March 2016**	**Afon Ogwr**		24 Oct. 2003	Kenfig
GOWER	2 April 2001	Eglwys Nunydd Res.		12 Oct. 2015	Mewslade Valley
CARMARTHEN	2 April 2017	Carmarthen		8 Oct. 2001	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	1 April 2019	Teifi Marshes		5 Oct. 2011	Skomer
CEREDIGION	1 April 2019	Teifi Marshes		11 Oct. 2016	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	25 March 2005	Y Gors		8 Oct. 2015	Llangasty
MONTGOMERY	19 March 2015	Upper Dyfi est.		2 Oct. 2013	Llyn Coed y Dinas
RADNOR	13 April 2014	Llowes		20 Sept. 2015	Rhosgoch
MEIRIONNYDD	3 April 2019	Marchynys		21 Sept. 2013	Dyfi Junction
CAERNARFON	1 April 2014	Bardsey		9 Oct. 2016	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	8 April 2000	Cemlyn		**19 Nov. 2005**	**Malltraeth Cob**
DENBIGH	4 April 2017	RSPB Conwy		1 Oct. 2004	Borras Quarry
FLINT	11 April 2010 and 2011	Shotton (2010) and Point of Ayr (2011)		6 Sept. 2008 and 2009	Rhuddlan (2008) and Shotton (2009)

REED WARBLER

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	21 March 2015	Newport Wetlands		27 Oct. 2019	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	**20 March 2015**	**Parc Slip NR**		5 Nov. 2002	Kenfig
GOWER	7 April 2011	Eglwys Nunydd Res.		**19 Nov. 2016**	**Oxwich Marsh**
CARMARTHEN	4 April 2002	Machynys		8 Oct. 2001	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	11 April 2004 and 2019	Skomer (2004) and Stackpole Court (2019)		28 Oct. 2002	Skomer
CEREDIGION	12 April 2009 and 2012	Leri, Teifi Marshes (2009) and RSPB Ynys-hir (2012)		18 Oct. 2015	Glandwr
BRECON	2 April 2016	Llangorse Lake		3 Oct. 2002	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	15 April 2015	Llanbwchllyn		20 Sept. 2001 and 2010	Llanbwchllyn (2001) and Clyro (2010)
MONTGOMERY	9 April 2014 and 2016	Cors Dyfi		9 Oct. 2013	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	15 April 2002	Ynysymaengwyn		27 Aug. 2013	Aberdysynni
CAERNARFON	13 April 2015	Bardsey		23 Oct. 2009	Aber Ogwen
ANGLESEY	7 April 2019	Rhydwyn, Porth Swtan		7 Oct. 2012	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	7 April 2017	RSPB Conwy		29 Oct. 2018	Erddig
FLINT	10 April 2011	Shotton		8 Oct. 2017	Shotton

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	4 April 2010	Newport Wetlands		9 Oct. 2010	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	3 April 2012	Kenfig dunes		28 Sept. 2003	Llanilid
GOWER	2 April 2017	Oxwich Marsh		11 Oct. 2015	Pennard GC
CARMARTHEN	8 April 2016	Pembrey		17 Sept. 2014	Gweunydd Cochion
PEMBROKE	2 April 2011	Strumble Head		**31 Oct. 2004**	**Redberth**
CEREDIGION	**29 March 2011**	**Llanrhystud**		4 Oct. 2001	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	4 April 2012	Llangasty		4 Sept. 2004	Gelli, Cnewr estate, Crai
MONTGOMERY	11 April 2004	William Condry reserve		29 Aug. 2016	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy
RADNOR	6 April 2017	Elan Valley		6 Sept. 2015	Cors y Llyn
MEIRIONNYDD	10 April 2007 and 2018	Harlech (2007) and Pont Croesor (2018)		1 Sept. 2004	Harlech
CAERNARFON	3 April 2014	Bardsey		24 Oct. 2001	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	6 April 2019	RSPB Cors Ddyga		7 Oct. 2016	The Range
DENBIGH	9 April 2017	RSPB Conwy		23 Sept. 2014	Bron bannog
FLINT	8 April 2004	Shotwick Lake		15 Sept. 2016	Rhydymwyn

GARDEN WARBLER

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	2 April 2005	Wye Gorge		29 Oct. 2016	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	5 April 2015	Flat Holm		**27 Nov. 2019**	**St Mary's Well Bay**
GOWER	5 April 2014	Graig Goch		28 Oct. 2019	Middleton/Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	7 April 2011	Abergwili		11 Nov. 2018	Cwmann
PEMBROKE	14 April 2016	Haverfordwest		22 Nov. 2014	Broad Haven
CEREDIGION	10 April 2015	Aberaeron		7 Nov. 2010	Teifi Marshes
BRECON	16 April 2011	Llangasty		23 Sept. 2006	Blaengwdi
RADNOR	14 April 2015	Cwmbach		20 Oct. 2019	Glasbury
MONTGOMERY	7 April 2006, 2010 and 2013	Dolydd Hafren (2006, 2010) and Llanidloes (2013)		29 Sept. 2009	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	**24 March 2004**	**Plas Tan y Bwlch**		4 Sept. 2016	Morfa Harlech
CAERNARFON	8 April 2017	Morfa Madryn		12 Nov. 2011	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	11 April 2012	Cemaes		23 Nov. 2007	Valley
DENBIGH	7 April 2017	RSPB Conwy		18 Oct. 2006	Borras
FLINT	14 April 2011	Talacre		24 Oct. 2011	Ddol Res.

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.): E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig on 19 Feb. 2000; PEMBROKE: Hook on 7 Dec. 2001.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**20 March 2012**	**Collister Pill**		24 Oct. 2006	Silent Valley
E.GLAMORGAN	8 April 2015	Kenfig		7 Oct. 2016	Kenfig
GOWER	1 April 2003	Port Eynon Pt		13 Oct. 2019	Middleton/Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	14 April 2010	Cydweli		6 Oct. 2018	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	13 April 2014	Haroldston		**17 Nov. 2005**	**Porth Clais**
CEREDIGION	14 April 2007	Llanrhystud & Teifi Marshes		4 Nov. 2014	Aberystwyth
BRECON	18 April 2010	Talyllyn		9 Sept. 2011	Llangorse Common
RADNOR	14 April 2015	Cwmbach		20 Sept. 2015	Llanstephan
MONTGOMERY	11 April 2009	Dolydd Hafren		4 Oct. 2017	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	12 April 2009	Allt Llwyd		12 Sept. 2008	Tonfanau
CAERNARFON	9 April 2015	Bardsey		**17 Nov. 2013**	**Llanbedrog**
ANGLESEY	23 March 2003	Llyn Llywenan		27 Oct. 2019	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	3 April 2017	RSPB Conwy		8 Oct. 2004	Towyn
FLINT	9 April 2011	Rhuddlan		19 Sept. 2015	Bagillt

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.), all single birds: GWENT: Griffithstown on 11-15 Jan. 2010; E.GLAMORGAN: Heath, Cardiff, from 27 Jan. to 10 Feb. 2014; Maesteg on 5 Feb. 2016; Ewenny on 27-31 Dec. 2016; GOWER: Skewen from 17 Dec. 2010 to 16 April 2011; CARMARTHEN: Llanelli from Dec. 2015 to 14 Jan. 2016; PEMBROKE: Pembroke GC on 1 March 2002; ANGLESEY: Cemaes Valley on 17 Nov. 2013; CAERNARFON: Little Orme on 7 Dec. 2014.

WHITETHROAT

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**3 March 2017**	**Newport Wetlands**		**12 Nov. 2017**	**Collister Pill**
E.GLAMORGAN	31 March 2016	Bridgend		25 Oct. 2014	Parc Slip NR
GOWER	4 April 2005	Eglwys Nunydd Res.		15 Oct. 2017	Mewslade Valley
CARMARTHEN	5 April 2015	Dinefwr Park		21 Sept. 2014	Penrhyngwyn
PEMBROKE	6 April 2017 and 2018	Skomer (2017) and St Davids (2018)		30 Oct. 2004	Skomer
CEREDIGION	11 April 2011, 2012 and 2017	Tanybwlch (2011), Aberystwyth (2012) and Leri (2017)		29 Oct. 2001	Llanon
BRECON	6 April 2017	Llangasty		5 Oct. 2008	Cnwch Wood
RADNOR	4 April 2011	Crossgates		26 Sept. 2018	Cwmbach
MONTGOMERY	9 April 2017	Dolydd Hafren		27 Sept. 2013 and 2014	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	8 April 2017	Llandanwg		28 Sept. 2013	Mochras
CAERNARFON	8 April 2011	Bardsey		5 Nov. 2014	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	8 April 2011	Breakwater CP, Holyhead		29 Oct. 2004	Soldier's Pt
DENBIGH	8 April 2018	Llandegla and Ridleywood		10 Oct. 2014	Bod Hyfryd
FLINT	30 March 2014	Bagillt		29 Sept. 2014	Connah's Quay NR

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.): GOWER: Cwm Ivy Woods on 23 and 27 Nov., and 14 Dec. 2003.

RING OUZEL

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	13 March 2015	Newbridge		8 Nov. 2017	The Blorenge
E.GLAMORGAN	**27 Feb. 2008**	**Maesteg GC**		24 Nov. 2003	Maesteg cemetery
GOWER	8 March 2007	Farteg Hill		13 Nov. 2005	West Pilton
CARMARTHEN	22 March 2000	Mynydd Du		3 Nov. 2015	Pâl y cwrt
PEMBROKE	23 March 2017	Skomer		**28 Nov. 2001**	**Ramsey**
CEREDIGION	15 March 2014	Wallog		3 Nov. 2004 and 2006	Cwm Pysgotwr (2004), Cwm Ystwyth (2006)
BRECON	18 March 2014	Mynydd Llangattock		24 Nov. 2002	Tirabad
MONTGOMERY	27 March 2017	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy		29 Oct. 2017 and 2018	Corndon Hill (2017) and Moel Sych (2018)
RADNOR	22 March 2010 and 2016	Elan Valley (2010) and The Begwyns (2016)		22 Nov. 2014	Elan Valley
MEIRIONNYDD	10 March 2016	Cwm Nantcol		25 Nov. 2010	Bwlch, Dolgellau
CAERNARFON	18 March 2003	Bardsey		16 Nov. 2014	Porth Meudwy
ANGLESEY	15 March 2003	RSPB South Stack		10 Nov. 2002	Rhoscolyn
DENBIGH	11 March 2014	World's End		29 Oct. 2018	Pistyll Rhaeadr
FLINT	11 March 2017	Connah's Quay NR		No autumn record, but one in Dec.	

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.) besides those shown in the table, all singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Mynydd Meio, Caerphilly, from 14 Dec. 2017 to 1 Feb. 2018; Portobello-Ogmore on 28 Dec. 2019; GOWER: Cimla on 23 Dec. 2010; Briton Ferry on 24-30 Dec. 2010; Gowerton on 2 Dec. 2014; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 23 Jan. 2012; St Justinians from 19 Jan. to 4 Feb. 2012; Bosherston on 16 Dec. 2015; CEREDIGION: Cwmystwyth on 18 Dec. 2012; BRECON: Abercynafon from 31 Jan. to 3 Feb. 2015 and probably same at Penwyllt Quarry on 8 Feb.; RADNOR: Caban Coch on 14 Jan. 2007; MONTGOMERY: Dolfor on 3 Feb. 2009; CAERNARFON: 5-6 in Nant Ffrancon from 16 Jan. to 16 Feb. 2015; Dinorwig Quarry on 31 Jan. 2015; ANGLESEY: Carmel Head on 13 Feb. 2016; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 16 Dec. 2019.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	20 April 2018	Pen-y-clawdd		30 Oct. 2008	Peterstone Gout
E.GLAMORGAN	25 April 2013	Pant-yr-Awel		17 Oct. 2019	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	15 April 2015	Cwmavon		6 Oct. 2012	Morfa Pinewood
CARMARTHEN	25 April 2011	Llandovery		30 Sept. 2018	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	20 April 2011	Lydstep		**10 Nov. 2010**	**Monk Haven**
CEREDIGION	20 April 2015	Aberystwyth		8 Oct. 2010	Llanrhystud
BRECON	**5 April 2007**	**Brecon**		6 Oct. 2012	Pont-ar-wysg
RADNOR	3 May 2010	Elan Valley		23 Sept. 2002	Downton
MONTGOMERY	1 May 2015	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy		22 Sept. 2015	Llanfyllin
MEIRIONNYDD	16 April 2018	Coed Felinrhyd		1 Oct. 2006	Aberdyfi
CAERNARFON	19 April 2015	Bardsey		24 Oct. 2001	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	25 April 2013	Cemlyn, Hen Borth		16 Oct. 2008	Soldier's Pt
DENBIGH	15 April 2014	Rhewl		16 Sept. 2009	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	29 April 2010	Point of Ayr		21 Sept. 2018	Bagillt

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.): E.GLAMORGAN: Llanishen and Lisvane Res. on 29 Dec. 2000.

PIED FLYCATCHER

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	1 April 2014	Bargoed		24 Sept. 2017	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	3 April 2001	Cardiff		29 Sept. 2018	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	6 April 2012	Fendrod Lake		20 Oct. 2012	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	3 April 2001	Llanddeusant		27 Aug. 2016	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	2 April 2011	Strumble Head		**26 Oct. 2017**	**Skomer**
CEREDIGION	26 March 2003 and 2019	RSPB Ynys-hir (2013) and Llanfair Clydogau (2019)		15 Oct. 2007	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	26 March 2007	Bwlch		31 Aug. 2015	MoD Epynt
RADNOR	1 April 2012	Painscastle		16 Sept. 2015	Elan Valley
MONTGOMERY	3 April 2014	Llanerfyl		10 Aug. 2014	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	**19 March 2018**	**Marchynys**		5 Sept. 2014	Coed Camlyn
CAERNARFON	29 March 2011	Coedydd Aber		18 Oct. 2006	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	27 April 2001	Bryn Marian		14 Oct. 2012	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	31 March 2005	Clocaenog Forest		27 Aug. 2018	Llanfair TH
FLINT	8 April 2004	Cilcain		10 Aug. 2008	Penycloddiau

REDSTART

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	3 April 2011	Newport Wetlands		16 Nov. 2017	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	20 March 2007	Deri		**19 Nov. 2007**	**Flat Holm**
GOWER	30 March 2012	Mewslade Valley		25 Oct. 2015	Llanmadoc
CARMARTHEN	25 March 2014	Llanarthne		13 Nov. 2015	Whitland
PEMBROKE	**16 March 2009**	**Skomer**		17 Nov. 2011	Trevallan Ranges
CEREDIGION	26 March 2005	RSPB Ynys-hir		26 Oct. 2016	Tanybwlch
BRECON	26 March 2005	Llanwrthwl		5 Oct. 2014	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
MONTGOMERY	21 March 2014	Cors Dyfi		9 Nov. 2014	Dolydd Hafren
RADNOR	31 March 2008 and 2010	Elan Valley		6 Oct. 2010	Llowes
MEIRIONNYDD	18 March 2018	Marchynys		10 Nov. 2007	Mawddach est.
CAERNARFON	26 March 2005	Bardsey		24 Oct. 2001	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	7 April 2002	Llyn Alaw		12 Oct. 2005	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	6 April 2017	Chirk Castle		25 Oct. 2008	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	7 April 2019	Connah's Quay NR		26 Oct. 2014	Connah's Quay NR

Winter records (Dec-Feb): MONTGOMERY: Upper Dyfi est. from 7 Jan. to 16 March 2015.

WHINCHAT

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	27 March 2016	Newport Wetlands		2 Dec. 2006	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	29 March 2013	Parc Slip NR		**7 Dec. 2016**	**Sker**
GOWER	**2 March 2004**	**Eglwys Nunydd Res.**		16 Nov. 2003	Cwm Ivy Marsh
CARMARTHEN	21 March 2001	Penclacwydd		7 Nov. 2013	Llanarthney
PEMBROKE	18 March 2008	Skomer		8 Nov. 2019	Dale airfield
CEREDIGION	28 March 2002	Ffostrasol		12 Nov. 2005	Cwmystwyth
BRECON	11 April 2014	Craig Cerrig Gleisiad		1 Nov. 2003	Y Gors
MONTGOMERY	2 April 2014	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy		29 Sept. 2013	Llynderw
RADNOR	20 April 2019	Elan Valley		18 Oct. 2010	The Begwyns
MEIRIONNYDD	8 April 2018	Cwm Cywarch		30 Oct. 2004	Tonfanau
CAERNARFON	1 April 2002	Bardsey		31 Oct. 2014	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	7 April 2009	RSPB South Stack		1 Nov. 2015	Henborth
DENBIGH	20 March 2005	RSPB Conwy		13 Sept. 2019	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	2 April 2015	Gronant		6 Oct. 2016	Connah's Quay NR

No winter records besides the two Dec. records in the table.

WHEATEAR

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	1 March 2019	Gilwern Hill		8 Nov. 2005	Peterstone
E.GLAMORGAN	**17 Feb. 2007**	**Flat Holm**		26 Nov. 2006	Cardiff Bay
GOWER	10 March 2003, 2009 and 2014	Whiteford (2003), Baglan Bay (2009) and Crofty (2014)		**14 Dec. 2002**	**Rhossili**
CARMARTHEN	28 Feb. 2019	Pembrey Harbour		12 Dec. 2011	Pwll
PEMBROKE	21 Feb. 2008	Marloes		25 Nov. 2006	Castlemartin
CEREDIGION	1 March 2017 and 2019	Tanybwlch (2017), RSPB Ynys-hir (2019)		19 Nov. 2011	Ynyslas
BRECON	9 March 2007	Pwll Du		27 Oct. 2001	Trecastle
MONTGOMERY	16 March 2008	Dolydd Hafren		9 Nov. 2014	Llyn Hir
RADNOR	10 March 2010	Claerwen Res.		2 Nov. 2015	The Begwyns
MEIRIONNYDD	5 March 2019	Tywyn		10 Nov. 2007	Mawddach est.
CAERNARFON	1 March 2019	Aberdaron		12 Nov. 2011	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	6 March 2010	Cemlyn		20 Nov. 2011	Porth Nobla
DENBIGH	6 March 2010	RSPB Conwy		30 Oct. 2004	Llyn Brenig
FLINT	9 March 2017	Rhyl and Rhuddlan		23 Nov. 2012	Rhyl

Winter records (Dec.-Feb.) besides those shown in the table: MEIRIONNYDD: Caer Drewyn, Corwen, on 17-19 Jan. 2018.

The Welsh List: A Checklist of Birds of Wales (4th edition)

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Summary

This paper provides an update to the third edition of the Checklist of Birds of Wales (Thorpe and Stratford 2019). The list follows the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) World Bird List (version 10.2). It also makes changes in line with recent decisions by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC), the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). The full list is available on the Welsh Ornithological Society website.

Introduction

This is the fourth edition of the Checklist of Birds of Wales, hereafter referred to as the Welsh List, and has been prepared as a statement of the status of those species that are known to have occurred in Wales and the surrounding seas (up to 12 nautical miles). It incorporates all changes up to 31 December 2020, based on accepted records that occurred up to 31 December 2019. During 2020, as part of work on the forthcoming *The Birds of Wales* (Pritchard *et al*. in prep.), a review of all records of scarce and rare bird records was undertaken. This review, which includes the work of *The Birds of Wales* editors and species account authors, has resulted in additional information concerning individual species and subspecies becoming available. The results of the review are incorporated into the revised checklist.

The Welsh List

The Welsh List is the list of birds recorded in Wales, maintained by the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) through the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). Records have only been included after acceptance by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) and/or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

The Welsh List (fourth edition) can be viewed on the WOS website (**https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee/**). For each species, the list includes the English vernacular name, Welsh name and scientific name, and each is assigned to a Species Category and Species Status (see Thorpe and Stratford 2018 for full details).

It is intended that the Welsh List will be under regular review by the WBRC, with new species added, and potentially some removed following re-assessment. There remain a few issues to resolve over the racial identity of some species, but these do not impact on the assignment of species to categories.

Taxonomy, English and Welsh names

In maintaining the Welsh List, the WBRC relies on the IOC World Bird List for all decisions regarding taxonomic issues and on the BOURC for English names. Welsh names follow those used in *The Birds of Wales* (Pritchard *et al*. in prep.). Again, as part of the preparatory work for that publication, changes have been made to the 'category' and 'status' of some species since the third version of the checklist.

The Welsh List changes since the third edition (2019)

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*. Several subspecies are listed as present in Britain by the BOURC (*colchicus, torquatus, mongolicus, principalis, pallasi* and *satscheuensis*). Some or all of these, and hybrids, are likely to have been introduced into Wales in recent years, but it has not been possible to clarify whether there

are any self-supporting populations of 'pure' subspecies. Therefore, Pheasant is listed as if it is monotypic.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*. A review of the history of this species in Wales indicates that the populations on Anglesey were probably never self-supporting as these benefited from predator control and supplementary feeding. Therefore, this species is removed from Category C, but remains in Category E.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae*. A review of the history of this species in Wales indicates that the populations on Anglesey and in Flintshire were probably never self-supporting, as these benefited from predator control and supplementary feeding. Therefore, this species is removed from Category C, but remains in Category E.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*. This species was added to Category A of the Welsh List in 2019, on the basis that there may have been movements to Wales from naturalised self-supporting populations elsewhere in Britain. Extensive collation of records and further research during 2020 on the locations, movements and size of those populations has indicated that it is highly unlikely that Welsh records can be linked to these. Therefore, this species is removed from Category A, but remains in Category E.

FALCATED DUCK *Mareca falcata*. Male at Llyn Traffwll, Anglesey, on 17-29 May 2008, previously in Category E. This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List following a review of records by the BOURC/BBRC (Holt *et al*. 2020).

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. Additional information on the subspecies of Ringed Plover occurring in Wales clarifies that there is no evidence that *C.h. tundrae* occurs in Wales. The only subspecies recorded in Wales, other than the nominate (*C.h. hiaticula*), is *C.h. psammodromus*. Therefore *C.h.tundrae* is removed from the Welsh list and is replaced by *C.h. psammodromus*.

HUDSONIAN WHIMBREL *Numenius hudsonicus*. Following IOC updates, Hudsonian Whimbrel is upgraded (once again) to a full species rather than a subspecies of Whimbrel (*N. phaeopus*).

KNOT *Calidris canutus canutus*. This subspecies was included on the Welsh List based on ringing recoveries. However, it has become apparent that the ringing location, although suggestive of involving *C.c. canutus*, is not conclusive evidence. This subspecies is removed from the Welsh List.

AMERICAN ROYAL TERN *Thalasseus maximus*. Following IOC list updates, 'Royal Tern' is now treated as two species: American Royal Tern and African Royal Tern. Royal Tern is therefore removed and replaced by American Royal Tern, on the basis of records in 1979 and 2018 of birds that had been ringed.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*. A review of all records in 2020 found that all post-1950 records were likely, or proven to be, escapes. This species is moved from Category A to Category B of the Welsh List.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Additional information on the 1CY bird at Cors Caron, Ceredigion, on 12 November 1997, which was accepted by the BBRC, supports moving this species from Category B to Category A of the Welsh List. The bird had been seen in Norfolk and Cheshire on 28 October 1997 before being found in Wales.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius subaesalon*. Following review, a record of one at Afon Wen, Caernarfonshire, on 5 November 1996 was found No Longer Proven. Therefore, this subspecies is removed from the Welsh List.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*. A review of the history of this species in Wales was unable to link any records with self-supporting populations elsewhere in Britain. Therefore, this species is removed from Category C5, but remains in Category E.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus caeruleus*. This subspecies was included on the Welsh List based on a bird shot near Erwood, Radnorshire, on 29 October 1939. *The Birds of Radnorshire* (Jennings 2014) found this record No Longer Proven and therefore this subspecies is removed from the Welsh List.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus acredula*. Recent published work (Sokolovskis *et al*. 2019) suggests that the identification of individuals to particular subspecies is not advisable for individuals outside their normal geographic range. Although there are several records of birds resembling *acredula* in Wales, the evidence to support a definite identification is not available. This subspecies is removed from the Welsh List.

'SUBALPINE' WARBLER. Following IOC list updates, Subalpine Warbler has become Western Subalpine Warbler (*Curruca iberiae*) and Eastern Subalpine Warbler (*Curruca cantillans*). Subalpine Warbler is therefore removed from the Welsh List and replaced with both Western and Eastern Subalpine Warbler.

WESTERN BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica*. Following IOC list updates, Black-eared Wheatear has become Western Black-eared and Eastern Black-eared Wheatear. Black-eared Wheatear is therefore removed from the Welsh List and replaced by Western Black-eared Wheatear.

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis*. 1CY at Cemlyn, Anglesey, on 25-27 September 2019. This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT *Anthus rubescens rubescens*. 1CY at Bardsey, Caernarfonshire on 29-30 September 2019. This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

The number of species recorded in Wales (as of 31 December 2020), within each category, is now as follows:

Category	Total
A	436
B	7
C	8
Total	**451**

More information on the review of scarce and rare bird records was published in Green (2020). Information about species moved to Category E will be published in Pritchard *et al*. in 2021.

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Welsh Bird Reports. Welsh Ornithological Society.

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County and other bird reports 2019

This report is compiled from the county bird reports for 2019:

Gwent Bird Report 2019. Editor: Darryl Spittle.
Available from **http://www.gwentbirds.org.uk/annual-reports/**

Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report 2019. Editor: John Wilson.
Available from the Editor, 122 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3HH. Price: £9 + £1.72 for p&p. Cheques payable to Glamorgan Bird Club.

Gower Birds - the birds of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot 2019. Co-editor: Robert E Tallack.
Available from the Editor, 1 Woodside Close, Killay, Swansea SA2 7ED. Price: £7. Cheques payable to Gower Ornithological Society.

Carmarthenshire Bird Report 2019. Editor: Rob Hunt.
Available from Wendell Thomas, 48 Glebe Road, Loughor, Swansea SA4 6QD. Cheque for £7.28 (includes postage) payable to Carmarthenshire Bird Club.

Pembrokeshire Bird Report 2019. Editors: S.E. Berry and J. Green.
Available online at **https://pembsbirds.blogspot.com/p/the-annual-pembrokeshire-bird-reports.html**

Ceredigion Bird Report 2019. Editor: Arfon Williams.
Available online at **https://birdsin.wales/ceredigion-bird-report-2019-final/**

Breconshire Bird Report 2019. Editor: Andrew King.
Available from **https://www.welshwildlife.org/shop/**

Cambrian Bird Report 2019 (Anglesey, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd). Editor: John Small.
Available from Geoff Gibbs, Fron Wen, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan LL33 0ET. Price £8.00 including p&p, cheque payable to Cambrian Ornithological Society.

Other Bird Reports
Bardsey's Wildlife 2019.
Available from **http://bbfo.blogspot.com/p/bardseys-wildlife-reports.html**

Skokholm Bird Observatory and Skomer Island Bird Reports 2019
Available online at **https://www.welshwildlife.org/reports/wtsww-publications-and-reports-2019**

No North-East Wales Bird Report was produced in 2019. A report combining 2019 and 2020 will be published in 2021.

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